

HENRY JOSEPH DARGER-

"THE HISTORY  
OF  
MY LIFE"

*Microsystems, Inc.*

# VOLUME EIGHT

*Microsystems, Inc.*





The terrible shroud advancing <sup>4913</sup>  
swiftly swept before it every  
~~house~~ house and building  
in all its course. I looked  
towards that part of John-  
stontown and was transfixed  
beyond believing by the most  
terrifying sight of all.

A hoard white shroud like  
cloud was advancing towards  
the city that grew wilder as  
it approached untill it seemed  
as high as the sky. A fierce  
howling wind tumbled the  
ships about like toys blowing  
the smaller craft through  
the air like kites or tossing  
them on their beam ends  
like a tidal wave,

It came with the most  
tremendous fury beyond be-  
lief but it seemed an age  
before it swept into the  
first part of the town  
clearing away river piers  
like paper and rucking

49/5 sucking up the shore front.  
What a terrific wind, & as it went through  
that part of the city it swept ex-  
tinguishing all the buildings within  
sight, through the town the shroud  
formed into a huge column as if  
gathering strength for an assault  
that would even obliterate the very  
land.

So violent was the atmospheric  
motion concurrent with the  
whirlwind that several workmen  
engaged in digging potatoes on  
a field were carried bodily up  
in the air though they were not  
in the turst.

Suddenly leaving Johnston town  
behind the fury of the turst  
hurled itself for Gleason city  
also. Inexorably they advanced  
and piers houses and gardens  
were swept away in the wild  
rush of the awful squall. The  
ground trembled for a great  
distance under the shock of the  
impact of the wind monster.

I saw no more as it  
grew too dark.  
another ship officer

who witnessed this awe in 49/6  
spiring spectacle at Gleason City  
described it in these words

It seemed as if two mountains  
one of cloud, one of wind and  
the other other of land rushed  
furiously the one towards the  
other as if the land vomited  
human beings into the air.  
all along its path similar scenes  
were witnessed. Gleason suffered  
frightfully. A captain of a big  
pleasure boat who saw it shortly  
after the disaster said:

The whole town was not all  
blown away by the turst or at first  
reported as the town is much more  
wider than the storm but the funnel  
rushed through a wide section along  
the west from south west on a  
mighty tempestual squall and  
deviated that side all the way  
near the north west and then some-  
how catamored off, turned on  
its course became uncontrollable  
in its insane wildness and  
headed all hell bent for  
the Gleason exchange.

4917 I dont think that a few hundred escaped out of the entire population of that orphanage which was soon no more. I doubt if any one escaped on the forward frontal section of the building which was swept completely away like a cloud of dust and dry sand.

Unfortunately the monstrous disaster proved on later advices to be far more complete as before stated, and with all ameliorations it was most terrific and soul harrowing. It surely must have been a wind of the most immeasurable strength something that can hardly be believed to make such a strong building and all its magnificent adjoining grounds and local property vanish like that and scatter its dead and injured inmates far over the country side and into other towns and villages and also into Bunny Beery Salomee and Chesterbourn.

Later advices concerning

It stated the monster 4918 that swept through Chesterbourn later overwhelmed the whole length of the city except thirty two houses and barns further south ward which were not on its path, and yet flung off from itself a great windmill tower and slung it around Simon Peter Segrees big barn which nevertheless was not the least damaged.

Some of the houses along the water front of the river were swept from their foundations by the wind and thrown into the river, thirty eight miles of railroad running through Chesterbourn was destroyed and the big railroad station is not even there no more.

The river front at Chesterbourn has been completely swept away according to survivors. The river harbor is filled with wreckage from vessels of every kind and of houses

DRF IN ICE AT SZ  
boat



4919 and it is impossible  
to approach Chesterbourn from the  
west and south, by river or  
land. Three quarters of the Convent  
is gone there are no Angel Guardian  
orphanage or Supermarket no  
more, the great St Vincents  
Church and St Dennis School  
are a thing of the past but so  
is even Chesterbourn.

With the horrible onrush of  
the wind the sucking up of  
boats the crushing and fling  
about of ships and the destruction  
of bridges and landscapes the  
river became instantly covered  
with debris containing refuse of  
every description dotted with human  
bodies of all ages.

When day dawned the entire  
river shore line of the surround-  
ing country was utterly changed  
by the mighty wind in  
appearance. The river coast  
line was greatly altered while  
all of the magnificent houses  
along the shore only a few  
shattered scattered remains  
remained. It surpassed  
by far the horror of St Pierre.

at Chesterbourn the storm 4920  
sunk five hundred boats and  
did great damage beyond recovery  
to all large river vessels and  
steamers. Also at Chesterbourn  
a very large ferry boat 200  
feet long and seventy wide  
was thrown high into the  
air in a forward direction like  
it was a sheet of paper.

It landed on top of the  
river dock and was left hang-  
ing there by the passing squall  
of wind. The great wind mill  
high tower supplying Chesterbourn  
with water from its pumps is  
gone. It is reported by now  
that its the one wrapped around  
Mr Seegrees barn.

How in the world could the  
tornado carry that monstrous  
outfit? That alone is a profound  
mystery. And to fling it around  
his barn like a coiled rope.

This was the first intimation  
of the crew who miraculously  
survived that anything had  
happened. It was sure some ride  
they had through the air on that ferry  
boat.

4920 The full panic flight of the homeless host. Sorry pretty long narrative but can't be skipped.

The papers continued

The first moment of the fearful storm was one of stupefaction.

It came so utterly without warning catching thousands in Chester brown off guard to a terrifying vision of a sudden death and injury, their houses flying to pieces all around them ceilings and floors going off like shreds of tissue paper walls even being precipitated through the air like loads of dust furniture of every kind hurled through the the air in every direction numbers of those who were not flung by the wind to immediate death screaming in mortal terror or moaning and groaning in pain.

Almost starving and bleeding from injuries and almost insane from their terrifying experiences, the

inhabits flying in all 4921 directions before the storm. The spectacle presented by the ruined river port was described as most terrifying. Flying and raging and upward blown buildings killed hundreds and mangled thousands of injured while hundreds of injured blown to Chesterchire were imprisoned with the Chesterchire injured and abandoned to their fate as no one left in any condition to even help themselves. One of those who escaped said:

Everything seemed to rise upward in an crushing direction and turn with an incredible velocity on a very wide axis.

The whole population who were practically precipitated through the air in all direction, from the houses pulled to pieces or torn in twain by the violence of the immeasurable strong squall were spun around like tops or blown through the air like feathers as they ran into or tried to flee through the streets.

4922 many were flung  
here and there and crushed  
to death by the violence of the  
wind and other bearded but  
also blown but not seriously  
injured were held tight against  
tethering walls where they soon  
met the awful fate of their  
companions.

Many of the victims imprisoned  
for a while in the scattered wreckage  
of what once had been their  
homes the scattered debris and  
refuse making egress impossible  
could not be reached.

Darkness lay over all and  
fearing to move lest they too  
should be tossed away like flies

many waited in trembling  
terror for the coming end of  
the wild storm. Then they made  
their way out often with most  
terrifying perils and difficulties  
clambering up inclined one stowed  
floor covered with scattered  
wreckage and upon numberless  
obstructions until streets or what  
had been streets were reached.  
They were forced to leave

behind them pleading and 4923  
weeping victims blown in from  
other towns so deeply buried  
in the wind scattered wreckage  
that it was impossible to aid  
them. Most of them who escaped  
who were blown from town to  
town were injured and for the  
living unfortunates who remain-  
ed a dreadful death seemed to  
impend because of lack of  
food.

The streets were a terrible  
scene of scattered ruins, people  
wandering about in distraction  
some of them utterly frenzied  
frenzied thousands more gather-  
ing along the muddy river  
shores seeking food or trying to  
get away down the river while  
many children died of exposure  
and madness numbers of the  
frenzied populace.

Wounded half naked or totally  
naked famished in their hunger  
they cried in vain for relief  
and succor.

The suffering was intensified  
by the lack of drinking water.

4922 many were flying

4924 water caused by the destruction of the wind mill tower and the mysterious disappearance of its big pumps of the well. Also the whole water system was demolished by the inexorable water.

There survivors arranged their thirst by the river water, by rinsing their mouths. The wounds of the injured had to be washed with river water. Wrecked drug stores or Groceries shops were ran ~~not~~ ran raked for mineral water or anything else to drink.

Here is the experience of one observer of the scene of maddened distraction.

I have witnessed the most shocking episodes enacted by famished survivors of Bunbury and have myself felt the pangs of hunger for long hours I had nothing to eat and have sought desperately for a morsel of bread.

While the exodus of 4925 the terror stricken was going on there were others in Bunbury affected by a different sentiment. They clung distractedly to what was left of their homes refusing to leave the fragments of ruins within which they had lived crying out that their only safety lay in fidelity to the remnants of their homes.

The most distressing scene or feature of the scene was the appalling enforced disorganization of the rescue work in Bunbury. While active efforts of succor were made in Chester-brown and Chesterchire, the city of Bunbury was left unaided and until the mass of wreckage of all other places strewn to the approach of that city was blasted away for a path through not a morsel of food had arrived to relieve those those who for a week and two days have been suffering the pangs of hunger.



4926 So widespread was the  
excessive disaster that it was utterly  
impossible at first to cover the  
whole course of the tornado path.

"You who are in authority tell  
the Illinois State Government to  
take us away from here or have  
us all shot to end our suffering"  
sketched the famished wounded  
desperate survivors at Bunny-  
bury crowding around the  
Mayor of that wrecked town  
when he appeared among them  
as soon as he could.

Every effort was made to do  
by roads still open. Ships crowd-  
ing the river harbor at Bunny-  
bury could not carry any of  
the survivors as they were so  
badly damaged or wrecked that  
you could not say they were  
ships any longer. Wagons  
carried away numbers of the  
survivors to St. Louis, Daven-  
port, Moline, to every region  
where help could be hoped  
for. St. Louis especially

4927  
was filled with them  
and its hospitals were crowded  
with the most seriously injured.  
In the realm of ruin and  
its vicinity all that that was  
absolutely possible was done to  
care for the refugees of all the  
storm devastated cities and towns.  
Camps were rigged up every-  
where

Wooden huts made from  
what wreckage could be salvaged  
were put up outside the storm  
ruined cities for the survivors  
some of whom were in disabled  
cabs some under mere stretch-  
ers of rags a few steps further  
on might be seen bodies laid  
laid at what was once street  
corners and left very closely  
watched. Then more of ~~st~~ such  
open air charnel houses at each  
turn

Here were dozens of corpses  
in a row, there fifty further  
on perhaps a hundred and  
close by the ragged survivors  
hundreds around a corpse.



4928 At the south end of Chester-  
brown were very ~~large~~ large  
camp the grounds crowded with  
tents all were clad in strange  
and many colored garments.

Rich and poor were mingled  
and one could not at all tell  
who in the crowd might be a  
rich Chesterbrowian or who a  
poor servant from his shattered  
abode.

Misery made comrades of  
them all and reduced them to  
one common level. One says  
"what fearful things have happened  
here at Chesterbrown. I could not  
hardly believe it was done by  
a tornado. How could it be  
so terrifying? We are in the  
mids midst of hellish of  
such suffering and want we  
go daily to the big University  
now turned into a hospital  
to wash and comb and feed  
the poor badly wounded creatures  
who are brought here  
by the hundreds rescued  
from the hellish debris.

4929  
all hospitals in all towns  
are not be full and most  
of them are now. The unhurt  
people are in the camps sleep-  
ing on straws. This morning  
we were working over them. The  
wounded women seem to be  
suffering the most and many had  
had their hair almost torn al-  
together from their heads and  
some actually lost their ears.  
Those who still have  
their hair, it is covered with  
mud stones and blood. Those  
who are not badly injured  
may have their hair combed  
and we are sent to do  
this.

The University hospital  
is a of poor comfortless place.  
Among the victims here is  
one poor woman blown to  
Chesterbrown all the way from  
Bunny Ferry, who had lain  
two and a half days  
in a room under the debris  
to which she was blown.

4930 with two boys  
and three girls all dead. She was  
saved. She was badly cut and  
bruised but remains quiet and  
uncomplaining. She is saying:

A wonderful record  
of thrilling escapes  
during the storm and  
its horrors.

Shuddering under the awful  
recollections of what seemed a  
hellish night mare rather than  
actual reality many of the  
survivors from the six  
or seven devastated cities towns  
and farms of the frightful  
calamity, especially those  
at Chesterbrown have tried to in-  
pictures in words of graphic  
intensity the minute and  
fourty five seconds of  
unspeakable horror and the  
time of exceeding terror  
which followed the awful  
calamity which overwel-  
med them on that day  
dread of terror of August 15th.

They recount the roar, rending  
and slamming and all other awfully  
tumults of sounds of structures  
flying away in fragments or  
falling and exploding like  
brick structures and the pitiful  
cries and groans of those flying  
here and there with the clouds  
of swirling timbers or pinned  
beneath beneath the timbers  
of collapsing building and  
bursting wooden houses.

They speak of being  
thrown among dead bodies as  
their ruined homes go to pieces  
as from gas or dynamite explosion.

They tell of absolute caravans  
of persons in their wild flight  
from street to street through  
the air and some of their  
accounts seem to reach the  
climax of dramatic presenta-  
tion of human peril and  
half insane terror amidst  
the wild tornado ~~commotion~~  
whirlwind squall.

It was more terror  
than can be correctly described.

4932 a graphic story was told by a woman who was brought to the University Hospital at Chesterbourn in a badly wounded condition.

condition.  
"Infernal" is the only  
word that will absolutely describe  
the fearful and terrifying scene,"  
she said.

she said. "I lived near the Sacred Heart Convent. When the first fierce wind came I was aroused by the sudden coming apart of my house. Windows flew out like the flight of birds and crockery and glass disappeared. The next moment the wind violently threw me out my bed and against a swaying wall."

I was half stunned  
stunned but knew that  
one thing that happened to  
me that I was next flying  
out through a window.

never thought there could  
be such a wind & the streets  
were filled with clouds  
of debris and people blown

through the air as thick 4934  
as a blinding blizzard, Every body  
who was caught by the fierce  
wind was stripped of their clothes.  
Tumultuous shrieks arose from  
all sides amid the wild yells  
of the tempest and we heard  
heart rending appeals for help  
from the unfortunate pinned  
beneath the swirling crash-  
ing ruins.

walls were sailing or flying away all around us or tottering and swaying in the awful squall and not one of my party expected to escape alive.

My brother and sister  
were flung by the wind along  
with me and in a frenzy of  
terror we flew down the  
streets holding our own against  
the panic stricken people  
blown around like ourselves  
untill the squall after all  
blew us into a place of  
comparative place of safety.

4935 But this was not done before I was struck and badly wounded by a large piece of board flying at me by the wind that came sailing swiftly out from some demolishing house nearby.

all along the street we saw scenes of flying people amidst crushing wreckage through the air all being stripped of their clothing like ourselves.

The houses seemed to even turn into flying swirling clouds of dust, especially the brick ones in whatever direction we turned to look. What a wind.

Suddenly a most fierce wind began to roar through the streets. It seemed to me that this must mean the end of everything. It grew terribly dark. The oncoming of the worst of the wind-storm rushed on in a huge black shroud accompanied by ~~was~~ a terrifying roar

that was indescribable 4936 and seemed too much loud for the noise of wind. The sky even overhead looked as thick as the worst blizzard with the clouds of blown debris and as if this was not enough the storm roared with a crash that shook the whole town. If all the gas works in all the cities in the country were to blow up here at once that could not make all this noise.

I saw by the glare of the lightning the Angel Guardian Exchange buildings and the top floor of the convent disappear away like dust clouds. Near us was Lincoln Park where a great number of overconfident people had been assembled.

None of us knew what to do when we heard the Park and all of them were gone and all the animals birds and green houses destroyed.



4.937

After the storm passed and I was in an agony of fear. I was in a room with a woman and a child. I saw the building for some time and then it collapsed and I disappeared. It seemed to me that scores of children disappeared with the storm. Then I lost consciousness and I remember no more.

Henry Caruoka agent of the General Steam Navigation Company in Bombay gives the following account of his experience: "I do not know and I cannot account for such a sudden terrific wind. I have been in a room of awful hurricanes but all the people together did not blow like this storm. He appeared and he actually checked my heart and senses. I noticed with

The ~~to~~ hooked, rocked, & wall  
breasted outward but the rest  
for a moment repair remained  
erect though the roof and upper  
floors disappeared away. Even  
inside our room a rough wind  
was almost tearing our clothes  
off and whirling us around  
and around so fast as to  
make us dizzy

We staggered to the reeling  
staircase to the street but  
saw there was more chance  
of death without than within.  
You couldn't see across

then is probably used then.

and throw the immense quay fourteen feet from its 4940 foundation and hurled every ship to total destruction killing and injuring every one on board.

The harbor was full of wreckage casks and capsized skiffs torn apart, ships and wreckage of every description from the houses that could float and human bodies too.

Four big three decked river steamers which had been flung on the upturned quay were wrecked beyond restoration their anchors gone.

They were the Turner, the Jenny Wren, the Francis Drake and the Mary Jane. I went to rescue my relatives who lived in North West Bummy bury. We found no trace of the big house where my father, mother, grand mother, sister and Aunt for the house and them all must have been totally blown away to the four winds."

4939 one quarter a cross the street there was so much blown dust and debris the air was actually choked with it all masonry and all. The injured were shrieking while being flung through the air or also from their tombs beneath the wreckage swirling all about them like wind blown snow and the ground of the very streets were being split open every where from the violence of the wind.

Horror was piled on horror and soon ~~on~~ inky blackness pressed on us and the wind suddenly grew to an inconceivable strength and fury. It was like being in a windy hell.

The rest of our house seemed to defy the storm. It quit as sudden as it came, and we went to the river harbor where the wind had lifted

4941 "D. Caldwell chief of  
mayor, informant in Bunny -  
lunny who lived on the main  
aristocratic quarter of the town  
Some distance back from the  
river had an interesting story  
to tell

15 felt  
While his house was not  
in the storm's path it was  
severely shaken by the com-  
pulsion in the air and vi-  
bration of the ground as the  
vicious hurster passed by.

He happened to be preparing supper at the moment of the storm and was flung from his feet before he could get to the kitchen door.

He called to the others and all managed to get down stairs while the strange shaking continued with ever increasing violence.

Then the last and  
were passing was for  
when we reached  
the street and to this delay

They probably owed their  
lives for they escaped the  
flying masonry and other de-  
vils hurled forth by the wind  
yet they stood in utter darkness  
listening to the death throes  
of a dying city.

He was asked what was the effect upon him and his companions of those hours of suspense after the storm and what they did and he replied:

We did nothing. Could do  
nothing. We remained silent  
in the rain around, severe  
lightning and thunder dull  
dazed half stupefied. I  
felt no keen emotion not  
even of fear, I do believe  
we all passed into a condi-  
tion of submersive indifference.

With the slow coming of  
what we could call daylight  
our ~~pal~~ faculties awakened

The room revealed little  
till the sky got lighter  
and then we strove to make  
our way to the river part  
of the town. We found to

4439 our astonishment that nearly every street was de-  
nuded of building and what  
walls were standing were only  
five feet high. Yet there were  
impassable ruins. We imagined  
that we alone were the only  
survivors and we looked for the  
speeding coming of soldiers  
or relief parties.

We had no suspicion of the  
truth until two hours later  
when I saw a soldier a little  
distance down the street. I  
shouted to him to know what  
the situation was elsewhere.

"Bunny Lunny is no more"  
came back the answer.

Even then I failed to  
comprehend the extent of the  
tornado disaster. I've seen the  
results of the Messina earth-  
quake when I was there, but  
it is nothing like this. An  
earthquake leaves what it throws  
down a tornado doesn't. What  
I saw at Bunny Lunny proves  
that soldier did not ex-  
aggerated. In fact he had  
not told it all. It was  
far worse than what he

said. "A woman who escaped 4940  
wounded in Chesterbrown wounded  
told of her trying experience  
We were all house cleaning  
when we were aroused by an  
awful deafening roar of wind  
accompanied by an awful trem-  
bling which threw us headlong  
off our feet and violently against  
the wall.

I cried out that it was a  
tornado and called to the others  
to save themselves. The house  
shook more violently the  
winds roar was enough to drive  
you mad, then the floor of  
my room collapsed and the  
very wind threw me up to  
the apartment above which  
rose up part way like  
a balloon. The walls flew  
out and a big wardrobe  
was split in two then crashed  
through a swaying buckling  
wall the wind rolling up  
a big carpet or rug and  
sending it following after  
the wardrobe me after it  
nearly crushing me.



4941

My hand trembled  
 so that I could scarcely  
 get back on my feet. To really  
 increase the terror a rainstorm  
 of flying debris accompanied by  
 swirling dust as thick as clouds  
 swept through the broken windows  
 of what was being left our  
 house.

I inally with my brother  
 and sister I succeeded in  
 gaining the door to the street  
 but then did not venture out  
 as it was much more dan-  
 gerous to go out than to  
 stay within. As proof of it  
 could be seen by crowds of  
 terror stricken people who  
 were being blown every which  
 way amid the blizzards  
 of flying wreckage, uttering  
 cries of fright, pain and  
 distressing yells.

During this terrible  
 unbelievable scene every  
 sort of flying debris obscured  
 every thing else. We  
 dared not go out and faced  
 the peril within or death

4942

ambushed us at every step.  
 Instinctively I rushed back  
 into the shattered room and  
 from a broken window I  
 got the same horrid view.

Our ears were assailed still  
 with the cries and moans  
 of people flung about or  
 trapped in swirling wreckage.  
 These sounds abated somewhat  
 when the wind stopped blow-  
 ing but no one afterwards  
 came to our assistance or even  
 relief.

We were like in a tomb  
 with our scared children  
 besides us. We could see  
 no one because of the  
 intense darkness but every  
 time sounds were heard  
 from the street there would  
 come an outburst of loud  
 piercing cries for help from  
 the injured and perished  
 on the wreckage. When we  
 were sure the wind mael-  
 storm had gone off we  
 ventured forth and reached  
 the river where we saw the  
 wreckage of all the ships.

4443 The ominous absence of regular details concerning the Sacred Heart Convent proved to be due to the fact that not only the upper parts of the convent but its whole population except one nun and a little girl had disappeared.

Refugees was unable to discover what had become of that section and how and which reason and why the storm spared the lower part of the convent and why in a partial way it did not protect a part of the Angel Guardian Orphanage along side of it.

Where stood two days before stood one of the most magnificent buildings in the world there now was nothing seen but what was left of the building looked like an immense shipwreck - almost beaten to pieces by ocean storm waves with the ships stuck on the rocks.

4944 The upper parts of the convent and the Angel Guardian Orphanage, and also the big supermarket had vanished as completely as aladdin's palace under the magician's spell.

The first idea was that the upper part of the convent was completely pulled out of existence by the powerful forward pull of the tornado suction.

And this was no mere exaggeration of the fact and was not out of any consonance with the extraordinary situation.

Refugees confirm this story of dreadful ravage saying the upper parts of the convent, and the Orphanage had been sucked away towards the northeast. Site findings told the same story of this poor horror underivable.

A report of technical observations from the observatory at So Hall and Chicago say the tornado lasted twenty five seconds.

4445 71 was said that  
as far as the tornado  
traveled it was accompanied  
by remarkable atmospheric  
phenomena. The overcharged  
air was filled with sparks  
and flashes of flame which  
flared flared up until the  
heavens seemed afire.

The strength and  
majestic of the  
Sacred Heart Convent

The Sacred Heart Convent  
had almost the form of  
the Gleason Ophange but  
was larger and two  
stories higher. An Ozma  
Palace it should have been  
also. It was of the most  
tremendously solid construction  
and took 27 years to build  
without the construction crews  
being idle once.

The was a facing of brick  
or stone mingled with strong  
iron frame work and behind  
this was a wall of awfully  
strong rubble a mixture of  
mortar and stone of an  
enormous thickness. Ten  
feet of this material

for a convent building 4946  
was something very unusual.  
It was considered positively  
tornado proof. Its priceless re-  
ligious relics of art and antiquity  
representing the enormous value  
of \$10,000,000 disappeared with  
the vanished upper portion  
and its twenty eight granite  
columns said to have come from  
a temple of Neptune near the  
Forum of Rome lay prostrated  
here and there and in shattered  
pieces.

Even what was left of the  
Great Convent is in irreparable  
ruin.

The force of which "Sweetie  
Pie" brought to bear upon this  
construction show in the result  
that the building might as  
well have been made of  
cotton in the same quantity  
held together between surfaces  
of cardboard or even maybe  
newspaper.

This explains why the  
ruins of the Convent that  
was left of it made such  
an enormous shipwreck  
like appearance. The build-  
ing averaged five and a quarter

4947 in height two blocks  
long and a block block  
and a quarter wide. and  
the scrap heaps that is  
remaining is at least one and  
a half stories above the  
street level including the  
material in the street way  
in its front as well.

The upper runs is in  
the long steep slant to  
the rear.

Another peculiarity was  
the following. Most big  
winds storms especially those  
of thunder storms or hur-  
ricanes and of big snow  
blizzards has usually some  
general direction north and  
south east and west  
south west, or northwest, north  
east or southeast, or be-  
tween these points.

Not so a tornado. The  
debris flew swiftly in  
all directions and un-  
table into or blew down  
the street and even  
front walls flew away  
in whatever direction direct  
ion the building faced.  
It was the violent

4948  
vertical motion apparently  
that was most destructive.  
You wonder what a  
vertical motion of a tornado  
is? It is what is called the  
churning movement or whirl.

As for the loss of life  
among this convent population  
from this dread disaster it  
may probably never be ever  
known.

The exact number in the  
building was never estimated  
but they all disappeared into  
empty air except a man and  
child. They were not at the  
time in that part of the  
building.

Curious freaks of the storm  
was of the main northern  
front of the convent.

Standing walls had been  
absolutely blown away ex-  
posing on tier of rooms above  
another in which nothing  
seemed to be disturbed. Pictures  
hung straight on  
the walls, lamps were on  
the tables and vases and  
flowers on mantle pieces or  
dining room tables.

When one gazes at all  
this seemingly the work  
of giant hands the



4949 the amazement  
of it all is that there ex-  
perienced builders could  
have had the hardihood to  
undertake such vast labor and  
the perseverance to see  
success in building such  
a vast structure

If the world modern world  
were overthrown and swept  
to pieces by an all em-  
bracing earthquake and  
tornado of this kind at the  
same time it would leave  
no ruins to compare with  
those of this convent  
and its territory. This mag-  
nificent building was the  
largest ever known, or the  
largest ever built. Its most  
magnificent columns were  
fifty feet high and 11 feet  
in diameter around the  
base. As they still lie  
to day scattered about  
like broomsticks thrown  
around by boys it would  
take the arm stretch of  
six or seven men to  
reach around one of them.  
How could the tornado  
have been so strong?

Really this is being 4950  
investated. For for most of  
those throughout the city and  
the other cities whom death did  
not claim pain, and undescr-  
able agony and in many cases  
life long crippling and my-  
stery was the lot.

Suddenly at quarter to five  
almost without a moment's  
(warning) warning hours first  
rocked and swayed before a  
most fierce wind ceiling flew  
away like paper, tearing up  
of floors, scoured or also falling  
was of floors carried beds and  
furniture and their occupants  
to red or swirling men walls  
sailed outward, or crushed  
and tumbled first or were  
swept away like dust and  
after a minute and thirty  
or forty seconds had passed  
the great long 25 mile  
length city of Chester brown  
was within 28 minutes  
was swept into utter ruin  
the wind blowing away in  
all directions vast numbers  
of those who didn't get to  
basements, cellars or other  
shelter in time or killed,  
injured, stunned or dazed.  
The storm in passing  
you by, by rights lasted a

4951 minutes and forty  
five seconds but took  
twenty eight minutes to come  
into and leave the city.  
A scene of universal horror  
succeeded this most frightful  
of tornado catastrophes.

Hundreds of the people  
lay buried under what's left  
of the scattered ruins the  
most fortunate among them  
those who went to sudden  
death and escaped the long  
agonies that awaited many of  
those who lay under the  
fallen walls terribly mutil-  
ated and suffering un-  
told tortures.

Few in comparison  
were those who gained  
the streets half clad or  
unclad many of them  
bleeding from painful wounds  
most of them so terror  
stricken as to forget their  
hurts, screams of horror  
demoniacal cries moans  
of anguish filled the  
air drowned frequently  
by the roar of the re-  
velling storm.

and upon it all came  
a torrential downpour

rain soaking the sur- 4952  
rounds and adding to the grow-  
some aspect of the frightful  
situation. The suffering of the  
people were too awful to even  
contemplate. Bodies were found  
scattered here and there by  
the wind which bore mute test-  
imony of the torture endured  
before death relieved them of  
their sufferings.

Several of these persons  
had died gnawing at their  
arms and hands evidently  
delirious from pain and horror.  
Other bodies brought from  
the far scattered wreckage  
had portions of shawls and  
particles of clothing in the  
mouths and one woman had  
her teeth firmly fixed in  
the leg of a dead baby.

The stories related by  
the survivors in the University  
Hospital, and those in  
Limon Degree, soon turned into  
a hospital and those in  
La Salle and at the food  
supply stations, where noti-  
fications are issued twice a  
day all reflect the horror  
of the fateful Sunday  
afternoon August 15 the feast  
of the Assumption of B.V.M.

4953 There too many  
miraculous escapes to list  
them here but the cases of  
bereavements were without  
number. A Carpenter John  
Dolan related that immedi-  
ately after the first  
shock of the storm began  
he and his wife and  
children rushed for a  
basement of the house  
but the house went to  
pieces like weak card-  
board and they were blown  
down the street in the midst of a  
blizzard of debris.

Houses were bursting to  
pieces all around them.  
A baby was flung into  
his arm but it was already  
dead.

When the storm left him  
seized with mad terror the  
man fled towards the  
river after placing his  
family in safety. He  
returned to seek his  
mother and sisters but

found the  
house and  
them gone.  
Hearing  
groans from  
some scattered  
wreckage near  
nearly the carpenter,

4954  
made a hurried examina-  
tion. He found two little  
girls dying. From what was  
left of their clothing he  
believed they came from the  
far away Gleason Orphan Asylum.  
The head of one was split  
open and of the other, the  
abdomen and chest was gone  
and the intestines pulled every  
which way.

A woman near by also  
had a split open head and  
a young teen aged girl  
had a crushed in chest.  
During the twenty six hours  
the Carpenter passed among  
the widely scattered wreckage  
he did not see more than  
than 5000 or six thousand  
survivors.

All of the survivors told  
most dismal stories of the  
misery and suffering of great  
heat despite the storm and  
hunger after their escape  
and of the rarity of other  
survivors seen in the streets  
and open places so that often  
they believed themselves  
to be the only persons  
saved of the dense choking  
clouds of dust before  
the rain which hung over

4955 the city obscuring  
their vision and adding to  
the horror of their sheer  
bewilderment and of the  
greater horrors of the com-  
ing of a violent  
thunderstorm especially  
on the darkness which  
seemed to forbid all hope  
of final escape.

A tragic note was  
struck by an elderly couple  
who described how for  
hours they were imprisoned  
between the branches of a  
broken oak tree.

They could only cry for  
help and heard no one  
answer save other other  
cries for help from the  
darkness around them  
and the pouring rain.

It was almost im-  
possible to pass through  
some of the streets be-  
cause of the thickly strewn  
wreckage.

Here and there bodies  
could be seen in in-  
ferrible places jammed  
in by lig beams  
or masonry and  
projecting from

scattered debris of 4956  
what is left of the houses  
some lying half buried  
and horribly contorted in  
front of the city the river  
wharf was broken up and  
scattered and the river walk  
is sunk under water. Behind  
these were streets upon streets  
of blown away houses and  
debris.

In all places the appalling  
scene beggared all description  
everywhere horrors mention  
making the scene one that  
not even the pen of a hundred  
Dantes could fit.

Surprising to say the  
only buildings that did  
resist the storm were the old  
Royal Palace Telephone Exchange  
on North Avenue, and the  
High Bushrange Telephone Ex-  
change on East Walsley  
Ave between Haleslet and Howe  
Outside of broken windows  
the buildings not only intact  
but now are used as Hospitals  
Why couldn't such a tough timber  
work them? What are they  
built of? Besides the same in-  
cident occurred at Jannintontown  
and Berrybury. They too  
were turned into hospitals.



4957 The survivors of the disaster were so dazed and worn out that they were quite incapable of describing their experiences connectedly but the accounts all agreed that the terrible devastation was accomplished in one minute and thirty or forty seconds as passing by a distance across a street.

All those capable of really analyzing their sensations said that when the shock of the sudden "black squall" came they felt within their houses an almighty fall followed by an oscillating motion that burst their rooms like bomb explosions.

Their houses did not cave in but flew apart in all directions like torn tissue paper and parts sailed away.

A great and most terrifying roar like millions of howling down the streets accompanied the wind hurling about of every house within sight like a blinding blizzard before the gale and the windstorm was so immense.

Unable severe that many of the survivors

runners were flung 4758 from their homes through the air and down the streets or every where before they knew what actually happened. The rescuers who came as soon as possible found half of the houses blown to nothing and the streets so strewn so with wreckage that to go through was impossible and dangerous. It was a wilderness of devastation a mile wide and twenty eight miles long.

Beautiful churches, hospitals, schools, the Convent, Orphanage, Supermarket all of the past. The magnificent University which is now turned into a hospital was not in its path.

All of the magnificent St Vincent's Church, the pride of Chester, is almost all gone and little or nothing remains of Seacroft Park and all it possessed. The tower totally wiped out the suburbs of Chester, brown and destroyed countless acres of fruit trees of all kinds. The farm houses completely disappeared.

4959 the receding wind-  
storm leaving nothing  
behind corpses were en-  
countered every where  
on the outskirts of the city.  
The long long bridge  
across the river was demol-  
ished by the storm a part  
of it and its floor carried  
off by the wind as were  
also the entire section  
of the railroad.

A young seminary student  
George Ben Sagar who  
walked eleven miles  
to escape from the horrors  
at Chesterbrook had a  
terrible tale to tell of the  
first moments of the  
storm in which he lost  
a father and mother, sister  
and brother and another  
relative.

Together with my com-  
panion he said "I was  
in a train waiting to  
go to Chicago when  
by a long sudden wind  
the first man coach was  
literally lifted off the  
tracks the station blow-  
ing away before our

our very eyes. Yet 4860  
we escaped uninjured."

The Great St Vincent  
church disaster.

On the early afternoon of  
August 15th the feast of  
the Assumption of the B. V. M.  
all who could crowd in  
entered St Vincent's church  
in merciful ignorance of  
what was awaiting them that  
awful afternoon.

The morning of the 15th  
had just passed on with the  
receding of that first awful  
thunderstorm and yet gave no  
sign of approaching calamity.

As I said before it was  
the feast of the Assumption  
of the B. V. M. a high festival  
of the church of Rome.

The Sacred Edifice was  
thronged with pious pious  
crowds and the ceremonies  
were in full progress when  
the assembled throngs were  
suddenly and suddenly startled  
from their devotion.

From outside came  
fearful sounds like crowds  
of dogs howling that

496/ drowned the peal  
of the organ and the  
voices of the choir. The  
sounds grew louder and  
nearer. The panic struck  
on people were paralyzed  
with terror. What was it an  
earthquake.

Immediately after there was  
an awful up draft of air in  
the church and the floor and  
ceiling began to heave with  
a long and gentle strange  
swell producing giddiness  
and faintness among the  
people while the great big  
stained glass windows with the  
most magnificent pictures flew  
out and in pieces.

The tall piers swayed  
to and fro the big roof  
rose high in the air and  
the piers swayed much more  
swiftly to and fro like  
willows in the wind. A  
horrible rush of wind went  
through the church and a wall  
flew out. Shouts of horror  
rose from the terrified  
assembly as they fled  
from the pews for the  
nearest exit.

The awful roar of wind  
outside and inside grew  
wildly louder. It was now  
the same force inside  
as it was outside. People

were flung every which way  
inside the church. Down  
came the ponderous arches, the  
magnificent stately columns, the  
massive walls, no they flew  
crashing outward. The lofty  
spires crashed down tumbling  
upon the heads of priests, altar  
boys and people.

The sacred images the  
lighted wafers and candles  
and they who had knelt in  
adoration before them, the  
worshipped, and the worshippers  
alike were in a moment  
buried under one undisturbed —  
unshakable mass of horrible  
ruins.

Then the wind increasing  
tenfold came rushing on as  
if an immeasurable wind tunnel  
more powerful even than a  
big tidal wave carrying with  
it ships, barges and boats in  
the air and dashing them and  
what was still left of the  
church in dire confusion upon  
the swirling house debris in  
the streets.

Overwhelmed by the huge  
force of this wind great  
numbers were swept away.

4963 This great Church  
of St Vincents De Paul  
had been built at great  
labor cost and immense  
expense. At the onset of the  
storm the vast structure  
belf and its many beneath  
its ruins disappeared almost  
instantaneously away to the  
northeast like a big cloud  
of dust and debris before  
the first fierce squall  
which swept it away to the  
four winds.

The building and all  
who had been under its  
fallen ruins were in a mom-  
ent blown away. Not a  
single corpse - not a shred  
of raiment - not a plank  
not a few not a splinter  
not the smallest piece of  
window glass was left  
not even the foundation.

It had all disappeared  
like the upper part of  
the Sacred Heart Convent and all  
its children.

The greatest intensity  
of the tornados squall at  
this time is considered  
to have been during that  
forty five seconds and

it was probably then 4964  
during the period of its most  
greatest saway that so much of  
St Vincents Church was swept  
away. In passing by here  
the duration of this severest  
wind ever known is said to  
have been one hundred five second  
minutes or a mile or more  
a minute and forty five  
seconds.

The last of the storm had  
the most immeasurable force.

The impression produced  
on many was the same, but  
some said it was a minute  
and thirty seconds.

In all places on its path  
the railway track was most  
curiously distorted or carried away  
with railbed and all.

They were also displaced  
laterally and alternately de-  
pressed and elevated. Also  
lateral fixtures of double  
curvature and great amount  
of rails were pulled up  
in strange formations.

Many miles of track had also  
been shoved bodily to  
the northeast ward.

The advancing movement



4965 of the twister was in general towards the north-east and the snake like fashion in which the rails on the railroads were bent or torn up from the rail-bed or some of the rail-bed, indicated both a strong vertical and a lateral force of the squall.

Henry J. Do Little made a careful study of the observations collected by himself and others concerning this tornado and came to the conclusion that the speed of the tornado's suction wind power traveled with very unusual speed for he says its moment velocity could have been 17000 feet a second.

The focus of the awful disturbance was also ascertained. Apparently it was a double one the two centres being one third of a mile apart and the line joining them running the same distance to the northeast along the stretch of Chester town. This must have redoubled its strength and kept it going so far

without a stop. It was 4266 said by people living in the houses, missed by this awful wind damaged by the concussion and vibration as it passed by a half block away. caused furniture to be violently moved and dashed to the floor, pictures were swung from the walls or turned upside down and in many cases turned with their backs to the walls or to the front and every movable thing was thrown into most extraordinary convulsions.

The ~~storm~~ storm distributed all sorts of debris from the devastated city all over that territory and onto the roofs of those buildings.

The real most astonishing freak of the tornado in casting it off was to fling that windmill tower so tightly around around Mr. Simon John Segress big barn and without ~~injuring~~ it in the least. It is impossible to be removed, that morning all night workers went with their

4977 would equanimity  
in their beds Did any  
of them dream of disaster  
in the air though there  
am writing about were in  
the houses missed by the  
storm fortunately?

It may be so for  
often as the poet tells us—  
"Coming events cast their  
shadow before!" But fore-  
warned by dreams or  
not doubtless not a soul  
of these people was pre-  
pared for the terrible event  
so near at hand when  
at thirteen to five in the  
afternoon on the dread after-  
noon of August 1913 of  
the Assumption on the 15th  
they were awakened by  
a deafening tumult of  
noises outside and felt  
their beds by some  
strange phenomenon lifted  
beneath them as if by a  
Titan hand and saw every-  
thing in their rooms  
tossed madly about while  
through their open windows  
which vibrated severely  
came the roar of an  
awful disaster from the  
city without a block north  
west of them.

And it was awfully 4968  
dark like night outside.

It was a matter not of  
minutes but of seconds yet  
along that part of the street,  
no strange shock like it had  
ever been felt, no sudden  
terror awakened, no such terrible  
loss occasioned as in those  
few hundred and five seconds  
if not more.

People woke with a start  
to find themselves flung from  
their beds to the floor and  
observing a big blizzard of  
debris outside.

"A tornado" they yelled "But  
we're missed. Thank God."

Those minutes and fourly  
five minutes of the reign of  
the elemental forces had  
turned before their very eyes  
that part of the gayest most  
careless city in that part of  
Illinois into a swirling fly-  
ing wreck which no words  
can fitly describe.

Those inside the houses  
missed stumbled in wild  
panic across the floors of  
their hearing homes  
caused by the air concussion.

4969 regardless of their clothing of treasures of everything but the mad instinct for safety and rushed headlong into the street but fortunately not into the path of the horse across from them.

yet it put many of them to flight southward. But all this was not necessary.

The spectacle of these people from the houses not in its path yet thus roused suddenly from

daytime slumber by a fierce cyclone passing by and sent flying into the street out of its reach in utter panic

is one that can scarcely be pictured in words and can be given in any approach to exact realization only in the narrative of those who passed through its horrors and experienced the sensations to which it gave rise.

It is very important here to give the official

record of the tornado 4970 strange course as given by the Scientist Professor George Daily of the University of Chesterbourn which is now used as a hospital says of them:-

"The tornado came from Southwest to Northeast and the only description I am able to give of its effect is that its vibration and concussion in the air as it roared past the University seemed like a terrier shaking a rat. I was lying on my bed resting but was aroused by the first shock of some awful storm rushing on beyond my side of the street. I saw nothing going on as it was so dark like erebus,

I began to count the seconds as I went towards the table where my watch was being able through much practice closely to approximate the time in that manner. The storm came roaring past with might



4971 and main at  
twelve minutes to 5:17 PM  
The last part of the storm  
was the most severe.  
It lasted a minute and  
fifty seconds to my watch.  
It left quicker than it  
came.

Professor Johnnie J  
Johnson thus records his  
observations

The principal part of  
the storm seemed to  
come in three quick  
sections of most violent  
squalls the first series  
of fierce unmeasurable  
winds lasting about 40  
seconds. The violence  
of the winds increased  
most immeasurably dur-  
ing the following ten  
seconds and then in-  
creased to such an un-  
expected high as could  
not be comprehended  
for about forty five  
seconds more. The  
fury of the storm con-  
trary to what some  
say then diminished

some what gradually 4972  
during another ten seconds  
and then occurred with re-  
newed vigor about twenty five  
seconds more. Then suddenly  
it passed on with something  
of a violent shock in the  
air. The motion was from  
southwest to north-northeast  
on a straight line.

The remarkable feature  
of this arranged whirlpool of  
the air aside from its most  
extreme intensity was its unusual  
swift rotary motion. As seen  
from the front the sum total  
of all immeasurable deviation  
represents a very regular  
ellipse faster than a million  
electric dynamos at one spot  
and some of the lines re-  
presenting the vicious twisters  
motion can be traced along  
the whole circumference.

The result of the  
observation indicates that the  
most vicious winds were  
in the direction south  
southwest to northeast.  
In that respect the records



4973 of the three percent  
winds agree entirely as to  
the awful force in a  
powerful wind tunnel and that  
sure is some vacuum.

But they have several other  
features in common. One  
of these is that while the  
destruction is excessive beyond  
reason and very extensive  
the vibration period of  
the air caused by its most  
immeasurable racket is  
comparatively almost super-  
natural amounting to  
about a Krakatoa uproar  
at its worst.

If we seek to discover  
the actual freak damage  
done by this maelstrom  
of the winds the fact  
stands out that the  
utmost violence of the storm  
followed so close upon  
its forward onrush that  
the traces of much of its  
ravages were in many  
cases obliterated. Like the  
upper part of the Convent  
The Angel Orphanage, the  
St Vincent's church, Warner  
Building and so on.

So many buildings 4974  
of even steel construction in  
the path of the severest winds  
fell a prey to it as if blown  
up by eight tons of dynamite  
that the actual work of  
the force of the storm was  
made very difficult in many  
sections of all the cities hit  
impossible to discover.

This fact was one that led  
to considerable dispute when  
the question of insurance ad-  
justment came up. Many  
of the insurance companies  
having confined their risk  
of fire damage only and  
claiming exemptions from  
liability in the case  
of damage due to earthquake  
or tornado.

Among the chief victims  
of this irresistible tidal wave  
of wind was the costly  
immense showy magnificent  
city hall with its immense  
picturesque dome standing  
loftily above the four story  
structure, yet the windows were  
so big and high that the city  
hall actually measures as high as ten floors.

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4975 If the huge dome had been left erect it would have appeared only as a skeleton might stand with its flesh gone and all its spare ribs exposed to the searching air.

There aint no dome. Only the One above knows where it is. Its roof its smaller towers has been blown down in frightful disarray and the once proud edifice is still to day a miserable wreck, most of it torn away and only two stories high.

The new Post Office a handsome government building also suffered severely from the awful atmospheric phlegmon hardly any of its walls left and it is estimated it will need \$3,350,000 dollars to rebuild.

Most tornados are said to be very irregular in their course. But not this one. Its bee line course is very mysterious. No tornado

ever did this before. 4976 yet it was very irregular in its blowing frequency. We seen the powerfully gas reservoirs with iron and steel frame work all twisted and big factories almost all torn away, while a few yards away were miserable shanties now with not a board to be seen.

Wooden steel and brick buildings could not withstand the tuster no more than a strawberry box. Skirting the river shore from what is left of a big ferry building which was so seriously injured that it will have to be rebuilt, the first thing observed was the extraordinary violence of the tornado.

Pier number 1 for instance is nothing but a mass of ruins while Pier number three on one side of it and Pier number five on the other side similar in size and construction are not there any more. Pier No 7 is not damaged.

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in Gleason  
was

4977 all buildings possessing iron framework did not withstand the wind armageddon no more than did the flimsy frame and brick structures. The steel frame buildings and even the core at mine in course of construction got the same deal as that long steel framework bridge across the river or even much worse.

They would have probably withstood a severe earthquake like those did in San Francisco. But an earthquake and a tornado are two different things. An earthquake shakes, a tornado pulls every thing apart or entirely away. Nothing has been built yet that can resist a "savage twister."

The manner in which the tall steel structures did not withstand the tornados mightily wind pull (suction) is a complete indication of the strongest claim claims yet made for the tornados most overwhelming strength of the tornados invincible pull and it is made doubly doubly interesting from

the fact that there is 4978 no occasion on which the effect of a great tornado of any proportion, destroying a steel structure can be studied. The St Francis De So Salle hotel a sixteen story hotel could never be repaired its awful damage being that much of the steel framework was torn away and flung off in all directions.

Even the steel shell and the lower floors three stories high were not intact. It is really through I suppose that the worse earthquake like even at Messina could not do this, but as I said before an earthquake is not a savage tornado. It shakes but tears not.

At the (big) beginning of the storm the building rocked like a small sail ship in a tempest and then gradually nearly all of it was torn away. Yet the lower three floors remained though damaged beyond restoration. Other steel buildings equally damaged as to admit of no repairs

4966

whirling in the belly of a "wild cloud" sounds was a "suction" as the "ling on the" "rads" "catastrophe" the annihilation and the uprising is "paradise" in the "field" "ld. Omaha" "fel for it only" "e west side" "contour of" "was there is" "ground" "sounds are" "earth and"

a town and were wiped out was to the first town after western Gleason. Tornados was



4979 much more expensive were the Sherman, the Union Trust, the Rasmark the eighteen story Webster Hotel the Mutual Savings Bank the Ward Woolworth building and the International Postal building. All of these were modern buildings of steel construction from sixteen to twenty stories. Some of these are now even one story high. Some tornado. What a force.

A peculiar feature of the effects of this strong deflection of the air which pool on structures of this kind is reported in the case of the Lincoln Park-way hotel a fourteen story structure. Two stories of this building only remains and they were found so seriously damaged that they could not be rebuilt while the other twelve stories disappeared like the upper floors of the Sacred Heart convent. And it too had steel frame work.

Various explanations

have been made of 4981 the surprising fact that such structure could not at all resist this kinetic hurricane. In Johnston town, Bunnybury Gleason, Chesterhire and Janerville were steel structures that shared a worse fate.

The great strength and binding power of the steel frame combined with a deep seated foundation and great lightness as compared with buildings of stone or brick could no more resist this immeasurable destruction of the air than if they were made of straw or match sticks.

In resisting an earthquake the iron itself unlike stone responds to the vibrations of an earthquake force and passes it along to be expended in other directions, while brick or stone offers a solid and impenetrable front with the result that the seismic force tends to expand itself by shaking the building down in to pieces. But again an earthquake is not an irresistible sweeping tornado.

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4982 Whether there is any scientific basis for the latter theory or not it seems reasonable enough in view of the descriptions as of the manner in which in these cities the steel buildings could not resist the force of this tornado.

All things considered the modern modern steel buildings may have afforded as in the great San Francisco earthquake the most convincing evidence of their strength against all that but again an earthquake is no tornado.

From Webster street came the awful news of the total destruction of the large Angel Guardian Orphanage building covering a portion of its vast children's playground. It too had steel frame work. The walls were gone, the roof reduced to nothing the playground wiped out and the destruction, and

also the annihilation of 4983 more than three quarters of its inmates and also many of its employees, and all the very masonry was complete. The pillars of the stone gates at the playground entrance were twisted and torn from their foundations all of them weighing six tons being shifted as though they were made of columns of very soft cork.

In this connection an incident of most extraordinary character is narrated which had not been mentioned before. Among the big statues of the great Sacred Heart Convent all of which were blown away was a marble statue of Christ in a niche on the front of the building left a shambles by the ferocious twister.

It was the only object that did not disappear like the rest of the upper part of this most immense structure. Whether you believe it or not, it was carried to Chesterchire and then flung through a hard cement pavement on Center street of the St Peters Catholic Church and was buried twenty five feet

4966 whirling on the belly of the cloud? sounds was as the ding on the made catart- the annihilation and the uprising is paradise in the full old. Omaha tel for it only the west side contour of was there is ground sounds are earth and the town and were wiped out was to the first town after eastern Gleason

4984 on the ground below from which it has been dug. The most singular fact is that when recovered it proved to be without a crack or scratch.

This convent also constructed of steel frame work seemed to be a central point in the disturbance the destruction of this most strongest building in the world being almost total with its upper sections blown to nothing though it had been built with the special design of resisting earthquake shocks and tornadoes.

How this could happen what could be the origin of such an enormous power of this twister exerting itself did seem very marvelous - little short indeed of most miraculous phenomena, but the mystery of the destruction of so vast and strong a building as the convent is more greater than at first it seemed.

What is possibly the greatest disaster of the kinetic haridan is of the belief in this class in this

the Republicans--killed the CTA subsidy bill.

Unless the CTA does get a subsidy, it will be unable to keep raising its fares and further reducing its services. The recent CTA fare increase resulted in an 11% reduction in riders. That increased overhead costs even more. Another fare increase would likely cost 10 cents more and it would further reduce the number of riders, thus putting us on a treadmill toward eventual destruction of the CTA. We suggest all CTA riders the Illinois legislature know their feelings about killing CTA subsidy measure.

\*\*\*  
(tornadoes) tornadoes since the terrible twister of Chesterbrown occurred with the devastation of the two great Oraphanges the Convent and the Supermarket on that awful memorial August 15th 1913. At about 12 minutes to five in the afternoon almost in a twinkling of an eye this "belly buster" tornado struck in succession these famous places and they were either blown high into the air and wiped out of the map of the U.S.A.

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the annihilation and the wiping is parody in the full old. Omaha tel for it only re west side contour of was there is of ground rounds are earth and

the town and were wiped out was to the first town after Western Gleason.

tornadoes was

4986 a short time after  
a short after their debris  
had disappeared into thin air  
the storm had terribly devast-  
ated the large surround-  
ing playgrounds and a dozen  
or more hamlets of the pro-  
perty had been overwhelm-  
ed in the fury of the  
raging twister or swept away  
by other phenomena attending  
the outbreak.

Many hundreds of children  
in these four places had  
met with sudden and terrible death  
scores of others have been most  
frightfully injured and the long  
roll of disaster included the  
destruction of the great Dennis  
building damming up of streams  
from the debris of these places  
and laying waste of large  
playgrounds and all the big  
handsome trees and millinery  
graves.

of the Angel Guardian &  
Alphampe the only ones who  
escaped annihilation were those  
who got to the basement  
of the main building  
but many of these were  
more or less seriously injured.

The force of the winds 4987  
however jammed the  
"Radio ... 2 basement doors so that 5/13/69  
they had a very difficult time to  
get out. I joined a small party  
provide a meaningful education. We also recognize the fact that  
state may not be in a financial position at this time to raise  
high funds. That was organized in Chicago  
But sending teachers out on strike is not going to convince  
legislature to provide the extra funds. The best way to achieve  
is to explain to the legislature in the easiest terms possible  
it why more money is needed for our common school fund. To  
mount a strike is merely to stiffen the opposition to more  
school money. To visit the ruined convent con-

sidered the \*\*\* worst but of all.  
We made the trip by a roundabout  
way. As we approached what  
was left of the great convent  
we were told by the Chief of the  
Relief Committee Mr. Darger here  
that the Kenetic Blarudan rushed  
on in a continued straight line  
from the time of entering Ches-  
ter Brown L and that St. Louis  
heard the noise from there.  
and that after this mosh-storm  
of the air heavy rain and  
darkness prevailed for eighteen  
hours and greatly puzzled  
many farmers and their families  
and hired hands and nearly  
everybody else outside of the  
tornado zone.

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44 We made an ascent of  
4988 the east side by ladder  
to the back of the ruined  
Convent the safest part to try  
to investigate so as to obtain  
a clear view of its shattered top  
and its conglomeration of dis-  
embarkment and of the chapel,  
recreation which had been so  
terribly overwhelmed.

Only on nearing the end of the  
ascent by ladder was our party  
brought face to face with  
signs of the explosive force of  
the ferocious squall. What I  
observed here had by no  
means prepared me for what  
I saw. nor the faintest conception  
either of the magnificence  
or the horror of the scene - or  
of the wild bewildering some of  
this most unexpected event which  
confounded us beholders.

I am not sure from what  
point of view the writer in  
question surveyed this awful  
unexplainable Homeric Haridan, nor  
at what time but it neither  
could have been from the top  
of the immense unexplainable  
destruction nor from what is  
left of the interior of this  
appearance like shipwreck.  
Here are some passages of  
the newspaper description

nevertheless which may be 4989  
quoted for their details although  
Radio ... Then effect is exceedingly 5/12/69  
feeble in conveying an impression  
of this spectacle. Here besides the  
to future generations to pay off the principal while taxpayers  
at now would be hit the the highest interest rates on record.  
thermore, there appears to be no requirement that the vast bond  
be shall be underwritten on a competitive basis.

It seems clear to us that what is needed urgently in the  
legislature is a much closer examination of the Governor's highway  
proposals. Badly twisted steel and iron  
frame work, little of which was  
left fragments of which had fallen  
on and still covered the ground  
some distance away we came upon  
what was left of the altar  
part of the chapel evidently in some  
way the work of the inexorable  
phlegm of the skies.

Ascending the last step of the  
ladder to the edge of what is left  
of a jagged wall behind what is  
left of the chapel signs of the  
great disaster grew in number and  
intensity Down below in the play-  
grounds great fallen trees thrown  
every which way with branches  
entwined by all kind kinds  
of household goods goods and  
turn up by their roots either  
lay all around or roots stuck  
or upraised high in the air and  
the whole what is left of the

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4900 upper parts of this immense building were the look of having been mortally withered by some most immeasurably fierce and baleful blast of some immense explosion of thousands of tons of dynamite instead of a most terrific wind.

A few minutes further and we had gained the crest of the ruins and now for the first time looked forth upon the sight we had come to see - I hardly know which to pronounce the more astonishing the prospect that now opened before our eyes or the suddenness with which it burst upon us.

To the former no more fitting phrase perhaps can be applied than that of absolute unredeemed desolation - so intense so sad so forlorn and so bewildering that I despair of describing it adequately in detail. Such a long wide strongly built convent.

How could it happen? On our right a little above us near the displaced altar rose the uncrowned real sacrosanct wall of what eight days before had been the most magnificent and

fantastic chapel the 4901  
Radio ... 2 world had ever seen 5/15/69  
now a ragged almost sheer total ruin, all the rest of the upper part convicted felons, mental incompetents, and others who have no business owning weapons. For that reason alone the law should be maintained.

This repeal bill still has to go through the Senate. Although House members have been foolish in the extreme, it does not in the Senate will be. We hope that the Senate leaders resist Illinois gun lobby. We hope that they bring common sense to bear. We hope they throw out the gun repeal bill.

of the Convent had been blown away and either scattered over the face of the country to the four winds or into oblivion in a roughly fan shaped deposit of for the most part of unknown type of complete disappearance. Had enough indeed however to erase every section of this part of the building and conceal every feature of the denuded area of the immense structure.

What was left of the steel framework and systematic water piping was twisted like pinwire. At the foot of the almost raging wall clouds of steam suffocating steam rose ceaselessly from a broken steampipe and

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4902 probably coming from some still steam heated boiler in the basement and now an then ascending us with some hellish odor.

To our eyes the base of the wall denuded of all its wall plaster and smaller steel framework by the explosion of kinetic wind seemed to cover a space around the main altar. Between eight or ten feet, and appeared to be four feet thick. This however can only be rough conjecture. Equally vague must be all present attempts to determine the volume of blown away material.

Yet if we assume as a very moderate conjecture and calculation that the mean amount of debris taken off from all this long part as well as the wide section of upper three stories is not less than two hundred foot length we find that the work achieved by this great phlegmaton armadon of nature's wind firing was the upheaval and wide disappearing and wide distribution into oblivion of no fewer than 20000 tons of debris from the upper part, and other ponderous material of its immense roof for instance.

The real figure is probably very much greater, the awful

desolation of the structure 4903 beyond the altar section and the mighty mass blown away by this "volcanic" tornado which was scattered into the four winds were almost incredible. Down what is left of the sloping floor of the chapel, and across the center of the torn up floor boards (all the pews are gone) choking up that part and stretching beyond it to where the windows with the beautiful pictured stained glass

AGENDA OF MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

BY THE

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION

AT ITS MEETING TO BE HELD

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1969, at 10:00 A.M.,

IN COMMITTEE ROOM 201-A, CITY HALL.

windows had been was debris not belonging to the convent obliterating every foot of the erst while smiling chapel flooring. It is believed some of this debris came from the leveled buildings across the street.

Here and there the eyes rested on huge disordered heaps of all sorts of debris in the distant part of the chapel flooring resembling nothing so much as a giant wooden substructure of some badly modern weak wooden breakwater. It was curious to see on the further side the sharp line of demarcation between the floor

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Formation was

4904 and four feet of a remaining wall on which it had encroached on again the part where the giant crucifix had been fastened and now thrown down by the massive wind so suddenly coming on and hurling a monstrous sheet of wreckage through the air thrown right across the floor.

Neither living thing nor any sign of life could be discerned over the whole expanse of ruin, all was dully silent and solitary all in the building except a nun and child had been overtaken by swift death, swept to only God knows where. They eventually lost their lives in a manner which shows the extraordinary speed with which the wind blew.

They had been overwhelmed in a fate more horrible and more sudden than that of Pharaoh and his host. None escaped but Sister Mary Clare and nine year old Mildred Maxwell.

There are some that really believe that the twister drew up and absorbed and then flung all of the upper parts of the convents and everyone there with so high into the air and dissipated so far away

## ELECTIONS

HOUSE BILLS 610 thru 615

A series of Bills dealing with electronic voting machines: authorizes machines to be displayed for purpose of instruction; also requires ballot label booklet have designations of political parties for straight voting; also provides for specimen ballots for electronic machines.

February 26: 1st reading.

HOUSE BILL 700

Requires a primary candidate to have voted in at least one primary of his party within the 4 years preceding the date for filing his petition. Makes exceptions for first-time voters in this State and for first 2 primaries of new parties.

that many of the fallen fragments and inmates struck the ground with such velocity as to be hurled far out of sight. Great amount of digging was done in such localities but they found nothing.

Though we were standing on the ragged edge of what is left of the Sacred Heart Convent after more than three quarters of it including of course the roof we could guess the mighty force of the wind that literally blew all this away and spread it indubitably over the face of the sky. It is stated by some witnesses in the houses near by that escaped the twister that when hit it seemed the convent went to pieces like

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Comstock 1111

4906 like from fifteen to twenty explosions within that many seconds. What had been left of the convent building looks as if it had been truncated its whole width and length and at an acute angle to its axis. From our very feet near the displaced altar a precipitous wreckage slope of the chapel floor falls away for the full length of the long building till it reached the level of the first floor where the front of the chapel was.

At our right still below us rises a stone wall incased in what is left of the steel framework bent like pumice fifty feet long and appearing very shaky. This is on what is left of the second story.

It also is sloping down to the level and before it was evidently the shambles of the chapel floor. It is very dangerous to navigate this. Before us for five hundred feet in a straight line and on each side nearly as far in a sea of splintered debris is wreckage of other buildings thrown there by the savage gale.

On reaching the floor a little beyond the altar in the sanctuary room we found it to resemble the appearance

the appearance of a 4907 gigantic ship wreck. At the top of the convent it was like the results of a hundred steam boilers exploding at one time. The whole top of the convent had been blown into nothing or projected into the air with such vast rapidity as to vanish out of sight.

The velocity of the tornados squall of 17000 feet a second as stated may perhaps be very greatly overestimated but in its awful suddenness the catastrophe was one evidently with no equals.

The top of the immense structure destroyed may have been largely reduced to oblivion by the extreme force of the storm which was almost instantaneously converted into disappearing dust. The strength of the wind must have been enormous.

I think we all screamed at this sight. I knew we all wept but we were speechless for a new horror and terror had been added to this earth. It is the most unutterable of wonderful but terrifying things. The words of common speech are quite useless.

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Western Gleason

Tornados was



4908 It is unimaginable most  
undescribable a sight to  
remember forever a sight which  
at once took possession of  
every faculty of sense and soul  
removing one altogether out of  
the range of ordinary life.

There was a real devastation  
that no one could believe a  
tornado of the toughest kind could  
ever do. A big building like  
this..

Most tornadoes in ordinary  
cases would have ultimately  
rose back into the cloud and  
died away with no marked  
change other than perhaps  
like devastating a few farms  
or a town or two.

But such was not now  
the case. The sequel was at  
once unexpected and most  
terrible. As it grew so dark very  
few actually saw what happened  
or took place there nearest  
to the scene of the convent  
tower having enough to do to  
save their own lives while  
the dense clouds of flying debris  
baffled observation.

The phase of greatest violence



MCCUTCHEON  
43RD WARD  
N PARK WEST, 60814  
EASTGATE 7-3884

# CITY COUNCIL CITY OF CHICAGO

COUNCIL CHAMBER  
SECOND FLOOR, CITY HALL

TELEPHONE: 744-8800

ret in when three quarters of  
a minute had passed and  
it is stated that at that sailors  
on river ships saw that the  
upper sections of the convent had  
vanished in a dense cloud of some-  
thing like a black shroud the  
height of which was hidden in  
the blackness of the sky far above  
the storm.

At the time frightful noises  
was heard and resounded and after  
a time a rain of debris began to  
fall at places ten miles distant. Al-  
over the cloud above the savage shroud  
fierce flashes of unusually severe  
lightning rent the clouds and shot  
from the very shroud and it is said  
at a distance of forty miles  
ghostly occupants gleamed from church  
steeple all iron materials and  
fences domes and all tree tops  
and rail fences.

These phenomena grew more  
and more startling and intense when  
winds of the most fearful intensity  
shook earth sky and river the last  
upsurge of the storm around the convent  
being far the most violent and

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Western Gleason

Tornadoes was

4911 and and producture of the most  
understand results. It was in  
fact the most tremendous tornadic  
outburst in its intensity known  
in human history to do what did  
to so strong a building and  
also the powerfully built Gleason  
Asylum, and still stronger built  
Angel Guardian Orphanage.  
It seemed or did overcome  
the obstruction to the very energy  
of the internal forces of the very  
atmosphere and under the ground to  
do this.

The onward progress  
of "Sweetie Pie" till it  
slams at the Sacred  
Heart Convent, and its  
unbelievable results.

Untill this year of 1913 came no  
one had ever seen or heard of  
a tornado in this region although  
it was credited as being the most  
dangerous cyclone "alley" in all of  
Central U.S.A. They were unknown  
way before Chesterbrow was a  
village of a few houses as are  
scores of other forms of glorious  
towns or cities set in the  
State of Illinois the worst territory

4912  
for tornados. We do not remember  
for sure when this great Sacred  
Heart Convent came into existence  
but the tourists from all of the  
country occasionally visited  
the building and its magnificent  
grounds, while they roamed through  
the magnificent halls and rooms  
and many people sent their high  
paid for children there as a classy  
boarding school.

Children of Chesterbrow also attended  
classes there during the school  
term. Lucky they were not in the  
building at the time of this  
awful calamity. Chesterbrow would  
have no child population at all.

The Convent was known to  
all outsiders who visited it and  
the Sisters for it was marked  
on business charts as the most  
magnificent and strongest build-  
ing in the world.

Though there is no proof  
it was recorded no doubt that  
this locality of mid northern  
Illinois had had once or more  
than once the scene of the  
passage of an active tornado.  
In fact some great stretch  
of country side and farmlands  
had once in 1846 been torn up

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Western Gleason

Tornados was

4913 by some frightful tornado  
of by gone days at a time  
when no towns or villages ex-  
isted in this locality, but since  
untill August 15th 1913 there had  
been no fresh outbreak, it almost  
seemed that this tornado might  
be regarded as if being formed  
in the Netherlands and thrown  
upon all of this part of Illinois and  
especially the Convent.

In this respect it would  
only be like many other similar  
honors of Hell meant the ruin and  
devastate all the best handwork  
of God, all over the main Christ-  
ian part of Illinois.

As the howling yelling and  
screaming phlegm got through  
upping out north west Johnston town  
and advanced its vigor which had  
sprung into mortally at the beg-  
inning of its "belly luster" steadily  
increased and the more became  
more and more vehement as  
it struck and obliterated north  
to northeastern Gleason city.

This sound as it wiped out  
the Gleason Orphanage before  
you can say Tom Sawyer  
were presently audible ten  
miles distant and then

SENATE BILL 7.1  
continued

every mile distant and  
then as it headed for

Appeal Board in the Department of Revenue, to the  
Department of Local Government Affairs. Provides  
for certification of community organizations and  
authorizes contracts to provide services. Makes  
other changes. Repeals certain sections and re-  
creates functions in Department of Local Government  
Affairs.

So balls and sidetracked it, but  
doing still greater damage and  
causing a financial loss and kill-  
ing more people than the one  
did at Omaha there noises waxed  
louder and louder untill the  
great howl and thunderous hum  
of this "Sweetie Pie" (what a beautiful  
name for this tornado) now so rapidly  
developing astonished the inhabitants  
that dwelt over an area of this  
part of the country as large as  
Great Britain.

And there were other symptoms  
of the approaching catastrophe. With its  
onward progress a quantity of debris  
from the devastated towns and  
landscapes was projected and  
sucked into or aloft into the clouds.

The whirling winds could  
not get rid of all this as rapidly  
as it was finally hurled outward  
or upward too by the tornado  
and according the atmosphere above  
the main cloud became heavily  
charged with suspended debris of  
all kinds. Such was the thickness

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Western Gleason

Tornadoes were

4915 and the density of those atmospheric volumes of tornado debris and dust that for many miles around debris came down upon towns cities and farms like rain. Then the awful tragedy of the tornado took place. What an awful disgrace for it.

Many hundreds of the unfortunate inhabitants of the adjacent countryside and Bunzlbury and Helena village were destined never to behold the next day or the sun again.

They were presently swept away to destruction by an invasion of the towns by the most tremendous unmeasurable windstorm the world ever beheld with which the wildest squalls surrounding "Sweetie Pie" (there she comes again sweet name) were so terribly agitated. ("Gosh from now on give her plenty of room")

As it shrieked on towards Chesterbourn the spasm of the Harvard waxed more and more vehement. By the time it violently exploded into southwestern Chesterbourn the panic elsewhere was under spread for the supreme catastrophe was at hand. On that awful late afternoon of Sunday of the Assumption of the B.V.M. August 15 1913 the blackness

4916 of the tornadoic storm clouds now much thicker than ever was only occasionally illumined by lurid flashes of lightning. At the city of Chicago probably twenty miles distance there for a time no quiet that afternoon. The houses trembled with what was thought to be subterranean mysterious violence and the windows rattled as if heavy artillery were being discharged in the streets or at their very doors.

And still these efforts seemed to be only a rehearsal for the coming of the supreme display.

By the time it neared where the Sacred Heart Convent was the rehearsals came to an end and then came the performance.

It gave forth an overture as it crashed into Convent territory of two or three introductory explosive wind force which was succeeded by a frightful ~~atmospheric~~ convulsion which tore away all the upper parts of the great Convent within thirty seconds and scattered it with every one on into the winds of heaven. In that final outburst all records of violent windstorms on this earth was shattered.

4966 a whirling  
from the belly  
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storm after

Western Gleason

Tornadoes was



4917 This supreme effort it was which produced the most mightiest noise that so far as we can ascertain has ever been heard for or from any tornado. It must have been a very loud pandemonium of sounds which could travel from that part of Chesterbourn to Bloomington south and Chicago north and preserve its vehemence over so great a distance but we

should form a very very inadequate conception of the energy of the raging tornado if

AGENDA OF MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED  
BY THE  
COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION  
AT ITS MEETING TO BE HELD  
FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1969, at 2:00 P.M.,  
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 201-A, CITY HALL.

we thought its inexplicable or inexorable sounds were heard by people in towns merely a hundred miles away like Bloomington or ninety miles like at Chicago. This would be little indeed compared with what was recorded on testimony of people which to doubt is absolutely impossible.

Southwest from Chesterbourn stretches the distance to Springfield, Alton, St Louis and Cairo. Across the Mississippi River westward lies West St Louis the distance being almost three hundred miles.

It has been proved 4812 by evidence which under no conditions can ever be doubted that the pandemonium and roars of the great tornado attracted the attention of nearly every one in Cairo and St Louis and east St Louis also who carefully noted the character of the sounds and the time of their occurrence. They had heard them just in half an hour after the actual uproar for this is the time the sound occupied on its journey.

The "eruption" of this unlimited armageddon of the winds spread the most ruin and death from the Gleason Asylum to the Convent and created the inexplicable horror of both the Convent, Angel Guardian Asylum and the Supermarket. It was indeed a wholesale killing of children.

They were wiped out totally there three but one third of the Convent still remained looking like a big shipwreck in shape.

At the convent as we saw it everything was found to be changed. I believe about two thirds of the Convent was left the rest of it being blown as completely away into nothingness.

4966  
in a whirling from the belly child cloud. The grounds was descriptions as the ending on the tornado catastrophe of the annihilation and the wiping moir paradise in the full wild. Omaha killed for it only the west side e contour of was there is of ground grounds are the earth and one town and were wiped instant was to the first storm after Western Gleason.

...by no army Tornadoes was

4919 with all its inmates.

The marginal rear where the altar is was cut nearly in half vertically, what is left of the wall falling precipitously or having fallen toward the center of the object ruin. Where flooring had been before now shambles existed.

But some parts of the building that had remained had been somewhat added or increased in size by debris flung from other wrecked houses.

Of its immense long most strong slanting roof is on framework and all, all of it too had disappeared, some of the remaining four foot walls were partially destroyed some were covered with debris from other houses while many changes had taken place in its park like grounds and of the neighboring streets.

The famous colored fountain terraces were gone to ruin only two thirds of them remaining. The magnitude of the force of this "Sweetie Pie" must

4920  
enormous beyond all conception. The immeasurable fury of this ~~labeled~~ tornado seems to have been due to some deep lying causes of most extraordinary violence, this appearing not only in its terrible explosive force which tore every city and town to pieces or fragments including the wiping out of the important buildings already mentioned with the annihilation of so many kids and sent their remnants and the inmates into nothingness many miles high in the sky but also from an internal most violent convulsion that affected many of the storms of the whole Country with which almost simultaneously broke into the most violent of thunderstorms on all record.

We extract from Doctor Kerney Caldwell "On earth and its story of violent storms" a description of these closely related events.

"The disturbance is claimed to have originated between two great thunderstorms, and had winds from the 'belly burst' of the most extreme violence.

"Sweetie Pie" for its full long path thus surpassed Mt Pelé in its tale of destruction if not in loss of life. These two indeed

4921 have been the most destructive  
to life of known volcanic explo-  
sions and tornado horror in its  
murderous results. The distant  
effects of this "Sweetie Pie" explosion  
of immense wind force were as  
remarkable as both volcanic ex-  
plosion and earthquake combined.  
The awful concussion of  
the air caused by its tremendous  
uproar reached to an unprecedented  
distance and the clouds of debris  
fell every where for a great distance  
out of the sky.

The rapidity with which the  
effects of the Sweetie Pie pathos-  
atmospheric phlegmon made itself  
felt and evident in all parts of  
the central United States is perhaps  
the most remarkable outcome  
of this most extraordinary event.

The falling debris came down  
as far as Davenport and Rock  
Island, Galveston and even Bloom-  
ington.

Immense showers of debris  
of all kinds and of a similar  
description and believed to have  
been derived from the same  
source fell in south Chicago  
and Gary Indiana. In some  
places it fell so thickly as  
to do damage to roofs and wooden

houses. Another result of the 4922  
storm was the series of most strange  
series of atmospheric waves caused by  
the disturbance in the atmosphere  
which affected the barometer over  
the entire country and in Canada even.

Some state the velocity of the  
winds of "Sweetie Pie" that raged  
has been variously estimated at  
from 912 feet to 1066 feet a second  
yet it may be exaggerated.

Had this "Sweetie Pie" been  
the size of of a hurricane with its  
tornado force and hit the city  
of Chicago, there would be no more  
Chicago.

Six days subsequent to the roar of  
the twister after the atmospheric  
waves had traveled ten times around  
the country the barometer was still  
affected by them.

The mighty incident of the tornado  
horror has taught us many lessons.  
Lessons on the constitution of this  
most mighty atmospheric convulsion.  
We previously knew little or nothing  
may almost nothing as to the  
conditions of the causing of this  
awful phlegmon. Paradoxically from  
the extraordinary belly blockbuster  
above the woodland upon which  
it fell and uped out,

4923 It was "Sweetie Pie" which first gave us a little information which was greatly wanted on the strength of such unprecedented storms. How could we learn at what rate the winds of this homoidal hurricane was blowing estimated at height of force of more than a dozen of the strongest hurricanes at once in this one total spot.

No doubt a straw will show which way the winds blow, but all straws were blown every which way in the path of this most savage twister.

There was nothing to render the wild force of this wind perceptible until it was seen what it did to the orphanage, the convent, and the supermarket and St Vincent's Church and the St Dennis building. "Sweetie Pie" drove into those buildings such with such prodigious force as to even overwhelm the force of the death could from Mt Pelee. But had the tornado such gases, heat and flame there "would have no runners either at Chesterbourn. But it was immeasurable wind without fiery heat & deadly gas.

4284  
4924 With eyes full of astonishment many witnessed that vast "Sweetie Pie" on its horrendous most devastating journey. Of course every one knows the terrific force of tornados which in from three to five minutes can make a sad shambles of any town struck by them and which are of such a deadly menace to be called the terror of the skies and of the land.

But there is just another most terrific wind. It was first disclosed by Sweetie Pie. At the occurrence of that 'eruption' from the sky no one had the slightest suspicion that it was going to be a mile and three quarters tempest with a speed on hurrying with a speed ten times greater than that of the awful hurricane which once laid so large a part of Calcutta on the ground and slew so many of its inhabitants.

In fact had that hurricane been as strong as this maelstrom of the air Calcutta would be a thing of the past and all its people no more.

Fortunately for humanity this tornado was not that wide and with its same force we were



4925 thus preserved from the fearful destruction that its blasts would have produced if it had been two hundred miles across with the same speed of whirl and suction power of such a Tornado blasts against which no landscape could withstand, and which in that storm's duration would sweep a whole big city out of existence.

It is claimed that far up aloft twenty miles over our heads a mighty tempest is incessantly hurrying with a speed much greater than that of the awful typhoon that bore good parts of Calcutta away by wind and waves and slew more than two quarters of its population.

Yet I do believe our "Sweetie" blew three times stronger than this tradewind which it is said to be twenty miles above us. When this great wind had accomplished what it did with these most important buildings already mentioned then for the first time in history and I may add for the first time it stood to human vision that the strongest buildings in the world had become a thing of the past.

Then it was seen that this 4926 wind had a force that even the most terrific eruption like even mighty Krakatoa could not match. The debris manufactured by the supreme and unsurpassable convulsion of the storm was whirled far and around and away from the center flung outward by this mighty incomparable atmospheric disturbance from which the kinetic center discharged it all. I also read here from Simon Segree who also witnessed the disaster from his residence.

I noticed that some peculiar storm was coming in a form of which I thought was a vast shroud of rain thought I could not make out at that time what was making such a deafening pandemonium of noise.

Then I saw a part of the Sacred Heart Convent open out with a terrible explosion and at the same time a windmill structure wrapped itself around my big barn.

A wall of strange rushing cloud acting like a big wide fringed whirlpool swept through the street a block north of us with a crashing noise that I believe St Michael the Archangel could not describe. After that I had to have my ears reinstated by a ear doctor. The convent convent like from a tidal

4927 wave of immense size was struck "broadside" by an immense unseen force then came a sound as if a whole mountain was becoming a Krakatoa. The upper parts of the convent first appeared to be being blown to pieces and then vanishing into dust and thin air, the chapel part was ripped out and there was hurled straight towards the Angel Guardian Orphanage an apparent solid wall of enveloping cloud, the destruction there sounded like many thousands of cannon.

At the same time there was a tumult of other pandemonium of sounds. The wall of wind enveloped every thing like a hurricane of wind out of hell. From west to east the orphanage went away on a crazy frenzied conglomeration of flying wreckage. The shroud rushed in convulsive straight through the immense Angel Guardian Orphanage property. Everything vanished before our eyes and the air grew thick with flying debris like a big blizzard. and fortunately we were not in the thick of it.

That awful blast of wind to my turning lasted a minute

and thirty five seconds, 4928  
Radio ... 2 Before the terrific explosion 5/1/69  
all the inmates of the convent were

lan roulette. There's a deadly bullet in the gun which we pointed at our heads. And one of these days that gun is going to fire. It will be purely academic at that point whether it wanted it or not.

We hope that the state senate reconsiders Joint Resolution  
It certainly should not be passed. But if it is passed, then I hope that Secretary Hickel will give the resolution the treatment it deserves--by throwing it out.

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having a grand banquet on one of the upper floors. After the explosive squall all was gone and not one living child or employee or sister were seen again. The survivors Sister Mary Clair and the child are my barn made hospital.

I witnessed the destruction of the convent and the Asylum. The furious tempest enveloped them in every quarter with such rapidity that it was impossible that any person could escape. When the day was being suddenly turned into night but I could distinguish by the light of the strange tornado fireballs what was happening. All this time the shroud was roaring and shaking so loudly that I could not hear

4929 The cries of despair and agony adding to the terror of the scene from the thousands of children who were perishing, it was impossible to describe its horror or the dreadful sensations it produced. It was like witnessing the end of the world for little children.

It is not a fact that in every great disaster the most victims are little children. The outlines of what is left of the convent is not recognizable. All the formation the topography of the whole length of the building is altered as I saw the next day. I knew about the windmill iron framework wrapped around my barn, but just now my whole attention was on the ruins of the convent and the oblivion of the orphanage.

The people in the neighborhood of the Gleason Asylum did have the same opinion as the superintendent. No one expected that the grand old Countour beyond southwestward would ever allow a winter or any violent windstorm raged across it and even spurt forth wringing out wind and death. I myself Mr. Segre did not think so either.

This was entirely unlooked for, and also it appeared as

as if neither wind or 4930 earthquake could one third way wreck so strong and immense a building. The contour of the ground, (Countour - very low hills) was regarded by all Gleason city as a sort of protection or even protector - they had an almost superstitious affection for those grounds especially because of the magnificent and most beautiful scenery.

There was no pleasanter outing for an afternoon for the Gleason Orphanage children than a short journey to those green velvet like very long sloping grounds for a picnic and a view of the distant quaint picturesque slumbering only a few miles away.

The beautiful Illinois River ran westward through there and three railroad lines, the Rock Island, Santa Fe and I believe the Burlington. The territory was peace itself. There were many beautiful trees. ("They are not there now") These lands seemed to promise perpetual protection.

The orphans really did rely upon it to keep back violent windstorms from their great orphan

4931 home and from the contour  
lands itself and frighten  
away the tempestuous blizzard  
northeasters from the big old  
Lake Michigan. They pointed  
to it with profound pride  
as one of the most beautiful  
spots in the world.

Children played in its bowers  
and arbors families and even  
all the orphan children pumcked  
there day by day during the  
balmy summer and even fall  
weather, and enjoyed winter  
sports there, hundreds of tourists  
came and looked with great  
pleasure at the beautiful Heaven  
like scenery, and the also  
beautiful wide river where they  
would go for a ride on the  
ships and the beautiful crystal  
Illinois Lake which sparkled  
and glistened in the sunshine.  
Rich people had magnificent  
homesteads.

These contour of grounds was  
the place of enjoyment for  
many of the people of even  
Rock Island and Davenport if  
not also Moline and La Salle.  
I have heard the place

4932 employs and even the  
superintendent and other persons  
of high rank "Oh the contour of  
the grounds is our protector, it  
~~would~~ won't let any old destroyer  
come near us."

"As we really all know, the  
only thing that can stop a  
tornado is a 'high' and none  
of them appear anywhere when  
there is a tornado. And then its  
badly needed. A high can merely  
come around to cut off from us  
what is usually badly needed  
and that is rain for our farms.  
But come and turn off its path  
a twister or halt it altogether NO.  
As terrible as it was in its unbeliev-  
able results and horrors this tornado  
presented a spectacle of unusually  
unequaled grandeur.

To travelers and strangers the  
greatest resultant loss to the whole  
world will be the destruction of those  
world famous curiosities the white  
punk and other terraces of the  
convents most famous fountain the  
world has ever seen. What do you say  
about them Mr. Danger?"

"Well" I answered I have actually  
seen them. They cost \$10,000,000 to  
construct. They were made of the  
most expensive marble of various



4933 colors some two to six feet  
high fowdy feet around on top  
and the last lower three more  
than a hundred. It was seen from  
white pink and other colors of the  
most expensive marble ever obtained.  
Did you see it?

"Did?" exclaimed Segree. "Each  
of the basins contained very clear  
water sprayed from the monstrous  
magnificent fountain which hurled  
the water in fine spray fifty  
feet in the air. The kids climbed  
the terraces during hot weather  
to receive the cooling spray.

There the terraces covered an  
area of about the two hundred  
and fifty feet and in summer  
when the spray was on looked  
like a series of cataracts each  
edge of the five terraces  
being fringed with manufactured  
festoon of strong yet delicate  
appearing stalactites.

To my idea there were no  
more beautiful products of  
manufacture upon the earth than  
these pink white, beautiful green  
yellow purple and red terraces  
as they were called. They on  
all were twenty five feet to  
the top. Even by the Sisters  
and children of the convent.

4934  
the apthans were allowed their share  
of the spruce, but grownups from  
the outside "keep out"  
stone. The hot springs of the yellow  
and pink and white terraces  
of Lake Roto Mahana New Zealand  
and have produced formations  
resembling them but not their  
equal in fairy like charm though  
formed by nature.

The upper one of these was terraced  
fountain made pools and cascades  
was of the most purest white  
thirty feet in circumference the second  
lowest of the most delicate pink  
the water topping over the edge of  
each pool and falling in a  
miniature cascade to the one next  
below thus keeping the edges  
in shape as long as the big  
fountain was on.

At winter it was shut off.  
But all their most splendid  
beauty a immensely strong construct-  
ion and size could not save  
them from utter and most irre-  
versible destruction by the force  
of this most powerful belly  
bursting "Sweetie Pie". It didn't leave  
the water system pipes in the  
ground even. There beautiful  
terraces are no more Sweetie Pie

4935 surely did her work well. But how could it do it. Even the ground on which the stood were torn up eight feet deep. All the biggest trees were terribly destroyed or carried away and the whole face of the playground was completely and badly altered.

And I believe as I had seen some of the unusual splendor myself this tornado was remarkable for the strange excessive electric phenomena which it produced in the atmosphere, and also of the upper and lower section where the strange fireballs remained as far as the twister traveled and the lower one made the wind so hot as to almost scorch everything in its path and which are supposed to have been of electrical origin and due to the high state of electric tension in the atmosphere at that time.

Violent thunderstorms of very long duration with too much rain hail and violent squalls were said to be frequent accompaniments of this tornado everywhere east of the Rocky

4936 rocky mountains but owing to the influence of "Sweetie Pie" their condensation was so sudden and violent and such rains and quantities were developed that it was a wonder that another great Dayton Ohio flood didn't occur.

In all Central parts of the United States thunderstorms accompanied by the most loud and vivid lightnings were the result and cloudburst of rain added to dangers of inundations and overflows of rivers.

Remember the number of storms here that followed this horrid one.

The La Salle news mentions in its very front page that during the time this twister was hitting the Convent and unspooling out the Angel Guardian Orphanage the lightning from the very tornado cloud killed thirty six cows on two farms, eleven horses and three farmers.

The strangest fact about this tornado was that though it obliterated most of the upper section of the Convent it did not destroy the Sanctuary part where was and still is. that magnificent altar altar just as much exposed as all the rest of the structure to its full force. It is believed that the

4937 the framework of the walls of that part of the chapel which is north must have become so jammed and consolidated by the action of the fierce wind in the few records of duration that it could not be pulled apart even by a wind force the vastness of which may be guessed at from the vastness of the area of the rest of that part of the convent it swept out of existence.

So when this eruptive wind had passed on to the northeast it was found that the northern part of the chapel incredible as it may seem remained as if undisturbed so far as has been ascertained, but close to it and separated only by a knife edge of wall some twenty feet in height and so narrow that as I was assured by one who had seen it it is dangerous to crawl along it the leaning after a part of the wall near it being blasted out but just the same still standing.

But it is shaky, yet this seemed a miracle. I regretted much that I could not visit it. I'm afraid it's too dangerous, the destruction of the

4938 two apses, the convent, Dennis Building and Supermarket are the most spectacular and immeasurable catastrophes that has ever passed into the history of the world on tornadoes, almost at our very doors in that beautiful Chesterbourn city and countryside where rest a line of smiling cities and towns bathed in summer sunlight, disaster worst than even even the 'honors' of St Pierre from Mt Pelee destruction, unparalleled 'have ruled of terrible windy Sweetie Pie.

Sweetie Pie? Ha. Who invented that name for this most vicious disaster a Phlegathon, almost not of this world. Why would it happen that these buildings and cities have to be on relentless unsurpassable path? Who named that inexplicable, inexorable tornado that?

The Weather departments all over the country? one of the committees at the meeting answered.

The department of Weather Bureau? What the matter with them, no cyclone deserves a name like that. Why didn't the earth open to pour its relentless fires upon helpless humanity? Could the St Pierre catastrophe match this Sweetie Pie Calamity?

4939 The terrible volcanic disaster which overwhelmed Martinique and St Vincent the most peaceful isles of the Caribbean May 8 1902 and destroyed 50000 lives in an instant had about it certain unique features that justify special attention beyond all other such catastrophes of nature but can that match this tornado cataclysm with its immeasurable destruction and unestimated loss of life?

And especially children? We all know? Suppose that however stupendous and shocking the great catastrophes of the past may have ever been they really came at a time when our world was very extensive and wide before the telegraph the submarine cable and the railway and also telephone existed to bring the news before the printing press through newspapers and books and magazines had been un-vented to spread it abroad before the camera had been made ready to depict with perfect truth the very scenes of destruction themselves,

4940  
Now at the beginning of the twentieth Century comes a convulsion of the atmosphere most inconceivably tremendous almost at our very doors with all these reliable agencies of modern progress at hand for recording and preserving every graphic detail and news too.

But still the news of this disaster was not flashed for any type throughout the country or world and not yet except to some of the south. "Sweetie Pie" saw to that not only did she saw to that but also never ships laden with food clothing shelter and money given out of the fullness of sympathetic sorrow which was hastened to the scene of the suffering couldn't get anywhere near the scene of devastation because of the awful destruction of all railroad and other communications plain dirt and asphalt roads and so many bridges north west and east.

While they were giving people wanted to know the whole truth of what had happened but so widespread was the destroyed communications that they could not



4941 get any news. It is said  
those famous ringers children  
have not received any news,  
they can't get to Chesterbourn and  
Till the two Rooney children among  
them are worried bad about  
their mother who is prostrated  
in believing they had perished in  
the recent disaster.

So near to us was the great  
tornado so tremendous its effects  
so widespread the simultaneous  
results and the strange seismic  
disturbances caused by its vibrations  
and uproar throughout its course  
that no one dared ignore  
them.

What part of this country,  
or even what country would be  
the next to be stricken, was  
this the beginning of a series of  
catastrophes throughout the United  
States and the whole (world?) world.

What was the causes the  
real causes of such catastrophes  
such wild cataclysms of  
the atmosphere and could they  
not be foretold, or escaped.

No tornado Armageddon can be  
averted, but there should be  
some fair warning on time.

There was of this one but  
the people would not take heed.

There were the natural 4942  
questions rising in every mind,  
What made the tornado so awfully  
and inexplicably strong?

One of the most remarkable  
features of the whole disaster  
was the great unusual changes  
it made of the contour of the  
grounds a mile or so away  
from the Gleason Asylum. It tore  
away completely the upper parts  
of the low rises of ground, strip-  
ped it bare of all trees and  
farm lands and scattered the  
ground debris all over the ter-  
ritory.

In some places five feet of  
the upper rises of ground were  
scattered to the far winds,  
and the ground contour was  
altered to such an extent as to  
be unrecognizable. Four hundred  
people who lived in towns and  
farms on this Counton were  
killed and injured, many of the  
injured to be laid up for life.  
The changes in the Counton  
were not confined to the im-  
mediate center of the contour  
but extended as far as Johnston-  
town and Bunnybury, and the  
contour was supposed to stop the

4943 tornado or turn it aside,  
but got wiped out itself.  
The country aroused to an  
outpouring of sympathy never  
excelled, gathered as said before  
river ships and boats  
messengers of pity, money, money,  
food, clothing and means of  
healing to hasten to the  
stricken cities for the salvation  
of those who had survived.

But no relief expeditions  
could hardly get there because  
of destroyed communications of every  
sort of right of way.

If they could do so, to  
convey the whole of the desolation  
the suffering and the grief  
no words are adequate but they  
saw it not. And yet let those  
be glad and thankful to God  
who do not have to bear  
in their memory the terrors  
and floods of tears that follow-  
ed fast upon that vast and  
most mighty cataclysm of  
the storm. How powerless is  
man to save when old Mother  
Nature loses her temper and  
assaults, how feeble his boasted  
strength and intellect against

4944  
the stupendous natural forces  
which sweep whole towns away  
and landscape to shreds and  
small hills in twain make the  
earth rock from its vibrations  
shake the air with its most  
tremendous concussions and be  
heard over three hundred miles and  
flung debris over a vast countryside  
and upon towns and villages.

"Sweetie Pie" devastating city after  
city. Johnstown, what city in this  
part of Northern Ill., indeed felt the  
wild convulsions of the phlegm  
maelstrom of the atmosphere shuddering  
under the pressure of its heaving  
or bursting with the expansive  
explosive force of the most awful  
tremendous volumes of the wildest  
winds struggling to find a way to  
wreak out the northern part of the  
State.

Poor Johnstown was the first to  
feel the shock of disaster. The  
storm tore through there as if it had  
gone mad like a tiger with cubs.

Next Gleason was frightfully  
scourged by "Sweetie Pie" I must  
have that word, in quick succession  
came Howe & Lake Gleason  
Asylum was where unknown hundreds

4945 were killed from Bunbury -  
bury becoming a dead city from  
Sagamory to Chertelbaur scene  
of the most destructive wind  
convulsions in history of centuries  
where the storm burst forth  
in the most tremendous  
explosive wind force the world  
has ever known with a  
noise proved to be heard with  
a roar within a distance of more  
than 365 miles, from Chester  
brown to Chester chire, most  
historic of all tornado fury,  
whence 'poured' forth the floods  
of still stronger winds that  
scattered the buildings like chaff  
then gave rise which it erupted  
into the four winds and thence  
clear across the rest of the  
country and then sped on-  
ward into the sea,

Man kind stood aghast. Were  
the hidden atmosphere forces  
of great cyclones about to mani-  
fest themselves in a series  
of destructive assaults on other  
parts of the country? What  
would be the news from  
Moline, Davenport, Chicago  
right in the track of tornado  
disturbances, might be also

4946  
commulated. But yet all this  
I believe cannot compare to the  
disasters of the Asylums convent  
Dennis building and the Super-  
market blazoned before a most  
terrified nation, and would the  
crash of the greatest disaster of  
the age which burst with the  
most appalling threat upon the  
very nations.

Suddenly out of that bursting  
cloud belly came the shock  
of the most fiercest and savage  
tornado ever I know, the  
destruction of five cities and  
villages, the wiping out of orphan-  
age convent and other structures  
crowded with children, the death  
in horror horrible torture of  
thousands of hapless  
children, the heart rending grief  
of multitudes mourning their  
lost ones the wail of thousands  
of injured crying and pleading for  
succor and aid.

Yet the orphanage and convent  
horror is a calamity and spectacle of  
terror never to be obliterated from  
the memory of those survivors  
who saw it or those who hastened  
to the relief of the suffering

4947 Strange atmospheric conditions and unusual actions of parts of the river on August 13th to 15th were noticed by many farmers and the inhabitants of the cities which caused them to fear that some terrible calamity was pending but they took no heed.

So this most appalling catastrophe which took the lives of so many children from the Gleason Asylum to the big Supermarket resulting in the destruction of five immense buildings and nearly uncounted child lives has not only horrified every part of the Christian world but it is still horrified.

The heart of humanity shudders at every great calamity which results in the sudden death of thousands of people, but this massacre of so many children takes the record.

For fear of a repeat of such an awful disaster many parents are withdrawing their children from summer convent and other schools.

It is said however that this terrible unsurpassable

4948  
winter that overwhelmed these five doomed buildings did not strike without warning. Its terrific bellow was a warning and its crazy transformations and its execrable lightnings - even though within more than eighteen minutes duration the whole length and width of Chester town was turned into an unparalleled scene of devastation the horror of these five buildings surpassed all.

Nobody in these five buildings escaped the horrible fate that swept a vast multitude of children to sudden death, and left the rest who were awfully injured to suffer something almost like the tortures of lost souls in Hell.

Nothing like this ever happened before.

"Sweetie Pie" the greatest and most violent tornado on all record exploded itself upon these buildings like the blast of the explosives going off at one time. We seen the huge trees of what was left of them. The most huge trees ever planted anywhere. They were all torn up by their roots, and ~~either~~ laid flat, or standing up on their branches upside down or jammed



4949 into each branches  
(what left of them) telescope fash-  
ion with their root on each  
end of the tree and not  
lying down but standing plant  
were. One tree with its roots  
planted into the air the other  
with its roots towards the ground.  
And they were not where they had  
been grown either.

Others were mixed banyan  
tree fashion, all type of house-  
hold goods were wedged  
among the branches. These  
trees were the biggest trees  
in the world and stood at  
least some of them a  
hundred and thirty five feet  
high.

There were other indications  
here of the convent grounds  
especially the wiped out terraces  
that showed that this awful  
wave of wind must have  
passed over this section at  
the extreme velocity as if  
the sky itself had exploded  
with the same force as it  
did over Sodom and the other  
cities except it was mighty  
wind and not fire and  
brimstone. Every one of  
these buildings that were of

4950  
most solid stone and iron frame  
work were gone. There were not  
a great amount of debris in  
the streets here because the storm  
swept most away.

My first thought when I saw  
this awful destruction was that it  
was simply the history of Sodom  
and Gomorrah repeated, but not by  
fire but a great wind hurled  
out of Heaven.

The morals of the inhabitants  
of Chesterbourn, the children of the  
Anglican Convent and everywhere  
else in the city were very saintly  
if I don't exaggerate their good  
morals.

Un-good women was impossible  
among the people and they knew  
how to bring up their children,  
I cannot picture the goodness  
and holy morality of the  
children of the convent and  
orphans vividly enough. And  
the poor nuns and employees.  
It had to be seen to be  
understood. Why should this  
happen.

The children and all the  
others in these places were like  
rats in a trap, and had no  
way to turn. Uncounted numbers  
of children swept out of existence.

4951 on sudden death. Beautiful buildings in thirty five seconds wiped out. Among the children injured and others scenes of that beggar's description. Our whole Country and the rest of the civilized world horrified by the appalling news of the greatest calamity the world has ever seen or heard of.

There had been many awful disasters by flood and storm in recent times but none to equal this. The Johnston Calamity was on a far less scale. The dreadful Galveston hurricane and flood did not result in an eighth part of the loss of life that visited these five places crowded with hapless children, whose whose doom had been sealed by this dire calamity. If He is so so all good why did the Dear God allow all this.

Indeed no such appalling disaster distinguished by the awful suddenness of the blow the number of the child victims the completeness of the desolation of these buildings has ever come to the civilized world with such an

overwhelming and harrowing force. The destruction of St Louis, Kansas city Omaha and others put together cannot be equaled by this great tornado of modern times. The marking explosive force and more of this twister set in motion air waves that traveled around the country four times one way and three times the other and every self recording barometer in the country was disturbed seven times by that twisters awful vibration. There was traveled it is written at the rate of seven hundred miles per hour.

Now in this part of Ill. during our historic period no convulsion of nature comparable to this current event or city calamity has occurred since Chesterbourn or these other cities had come into existence.

Yet this entire territory is considered a cyclone Alley. But for all these years there has been no violent windstorms in this quarter of Illinois and the present disastrous disturbance is all the more appalling.

4953 because of its suddenness,  
Indeed the awful sudden-  
ness of this overwhelming  
disaster to these most important  
buildings and all their inmates  
gives it the most pre-  
eminence among the greatest  
wind or other catastrophes  
which we have records.

It impresses upon us all  
the transitoriness of man and  
the works of man,

The tremendous convulsion  
of the "Sweetie Pie" that pro-  
duced the uprising with  
such marvelous swiftness  
vividly recalls Shakespeare's  
lines

"The great Globe itself  
Yea all which it inhereth,  
shall yet dissolve"

"But yet this was not fire  
but a inexplicable, inexorable  
wind, The destruction of  
these buildings came without  
premonition or with  
such brief warning as to  
make escape impossible for  
everybody in these five  
buildings. The earliest reports  
of great calamities of every  
kind are often exaggerated  
but in the present instance

it does not appear as 4954  
yet that the first estimate  
of the loss of life has ever  
reached the right figure - yet  
nothing that appealed to human  
sympathy was lacking in the  
most appalling crisis. This is  
the most colossal tragedy that  
ever occurred, and has aroused  
the sympathy of the world,  
and efface national boundaries  
and nothing that afflicts  
humanity thus so grievously  
and lamentably can ever be  
foreign to us.

Now as any one knows danger  
hovers over the territory and also  
over the cities that lie in the  
region which is called the cyclone  
regions of the earthquake or in  
the shadow of the volcano. But  
I believe the main danger is the  
monado for it rushes for the kill  
while the earthquake is underground  
and the (volcano) volcano.

Those who live in the  
cities of the dangerous territories  
must face the perils of an  
environment which is not easily  
changed. Social attachment is  
strong with most men that  
they will brave great perils

4955 of climate terrific storms earthquakes tornado, and the mighty volcanos or of other dangerous situations rather than make a new home in a safer location.

It would be a very cynical observation to say that people who live in these regions should seek safer habitations for also there territories where tornado are not.

We are told that in the long course or path of this wind armageddon large areas of all sorts of vegetation have been destroyed to an immeasurable amount, that many are in danger from perishing from want of food and decent water and that famine is impending unless railroad communications are restored in time.

Great suffering is seen among the injured Unless rail road and other communications are restored in time hundreds are likely to perish for the timely succor can reach them. The American Government has taken steps to aid the disaster area by shipping goods by a round-about way.

So Salle, Moline and 4956 Davenport are full of refugees from the trail of the winter flood was required at once the most urgent appeals have been sent to neighboring southern towns but they too cant get through the blockade.

Because of this famine now threatens to add its horrors to the situation every where in the storm path. All survivors are still flocking into So Salle and all are still panic stricken.

Flood cannot yet reach them and the supply depots are under military guard. Terrible suffering can only be averted by the early restoration of railway and other communications.

Chesterbrown itself had even served as a storehouse to this part of Illinois Reserve supplies were held there and with the complete destruction of that city starvation is becoming an immediate menace, all the contour of ground surrounding So Salle is said to be covered with refugees still to the number of 5000. In the meantime provisions still cannot easily be conveyed to them. The river is so wide it'll take weeks to even construct



4957 strong plank bridges,  
as to the railroads it would  
take more than two years if  
they're financially well enough  
to do so. Official despatches  
claim the disaster far sur-  
passes all that imagination  
can conceive, you know as I  
still say "continued Simon Se-  
gree" the various accounts of the  
destruction of the Sacred Heart  
Convent which it is said reached  
Chicago from St Louis left only  
a shadow of hope that the  
later details would greatly  
minimize the extent of the  
catastrophe and the fear is be-  
ginning to seize the Chicago  
papers that even much worse  
news would come.

For instance the Daily News  
of Chicago in an editorial  
said:

"It is only too clear that  
the disaster to the Orphanages  
Convent and other big build-  
ings is larger than known  
at first. But how in the  
world could it be done to  
such strong structures as  
these? In the presence of  
such unnatural forces man  
and even angels are helpless  
and we can only prepare

4958  
to relieve all the sufferers and  
survivors and all the people outside  
of Chesterbourn waiting in vain for  
reports of their loved ones in the  
convent as speedily as it is possible  
to get some kind of opening for  
the communications. Then a  
Chicago Tribune contained the  
following:

"There are plans being matured  
for a meeting in St. Salle  
of all the members of the  
smitten territories formed by  
former surviving residents of  
Gleason and Chesterbourn. It  
is probable that the meeting  
will be held Thursday evening  
about why the strongest building  
disolved before the storm.

Yet final arrangements are  
yet to be made as all weather  
men and scientists on all  
storms are mainly to attend.  
Mr Henry Dargen here himself  
head of the Relief Committee  
has been requested by other  
Committee members to head the  
meeting and to issue the  
call for the meeting and to  
take preliminary charge. It  
is believed that men from  
all other cities will come to

4959 to Sa Salle to the meeting. It is also intended to take such steps as may be possible looking to relieve the crowds of anxious mourners who lost their children in the convent disaster caused by the explosion of the tornado, suction tube and representatives will probably be sent to Sa Salle for the purpose of gathering exact information regarding the fate of those convent children.

Unspeakeable anguish is still resulting from the awful inability to obtain news from Sa Salle, concerning the convent. Most of the children probably of the orphanage had no parents, those of the convent did, and it was no orphanage.

Without hope that the number of child victims has been overestimated there is even the feeling that the apparently impossible has happened. The surprise has resulted in the frustration of many women as mothers and sisters Aunts and grandmothers whose children and relatives of the large convent school are believed to have been swept to the floor

wind by this mighty hand 4960  
With the help of Mr Dager

superintending Mr William Thomas Schloder and Mr James Thomas O'Hean will be active in arranging for the meeting. Bernard Dunn will be the inquirer, they were unceasing in their efforts so far to obtain from Chesterbourn news from their friends who in the untouched 31 buildings lived near the scene of the calamity, but were unsuccessful at this.

They their friends declared the storm was too dark to see what was happening they are therefore convinced that it was impossible for any of those in the convent and the Angel Guardian Orphanage to have escaped as the storm was so sudden.

Neither do they understand how such immeasurably strong buildings could be totally destroyed and so suddenly. What indeed was the strength of the wind. Even about the Great Gleason Asylum, made pessimistic by their knowledge of the land in front of this famous Asylum they believe that the Countess of the land was also overcome by the fate

4961, that befell the Gleason Asylum. At the grand meeting there was hope for full success. All our relatives and friends had children being schooled and roomed and boarded in the Sacred Heart Convent, and it is hard to rob ourselves of the only hope that is left for us.

Still it is useless to take to ourselves what reason and common sense teaches is a delusion. I read the saying "the bigger and stronger the building the worse it will get it". If the mighty Convent has been destroyed, and its upper parts with its occupants swept away to the four winds and all disappear into nothingness as it has been described, by the dispatches then there remains nothing to hope nor hope to recover.

The Convent must have been obliterated by the same explosive blast of wind that shrivelled the Angel Guardian orphanage. The orphanage a branch of the Convent was just across the street from it to the west almost under

the main section of 4962 its territory, and if the lower part of the funnel has blown like a volcanic explosion destruction must have occurred as if they were made of tissue paper.

As to the Gleason Asylum horror, it is really remarkable and a very unusual event.

Between the Gleason Asylum, and the city by that name there is a break in the ground, and long but low rises of ground and the stream between, but the terrible storm which swept through obliterating it would have first reached the main higher grounds before rushing up to the Asylum.

That this Countour of ground ~~so~~ could not check or turn it aside is a mystery.

Those grounds has always been regarded as a territory of safety and storms passing through would be harmless. I am sure people would have recognized their danger if the grounds were not as I have seen asserted in the papers. But not only it couldn't stop this monstrous twister or turn it aside, but it was actually obliterated by it. It has been impossible for us in Chicago

4963 to fully realize  
the awful calamity which  
befallen us at home. My  
children were in the convent.  
My cousin and I were in the  
city of Chesterbrown last year.  
In the convent I left my  
three children, all little girls.  
To us the big beautiful  
convent building looked so  
strongly built, we believed  
nothing could harm it.

At the news we were all  
stunned to act but now we  
know the full extent of our sad  
loss and so far though we  
did what we could do to lessen  
the effect of the blow were are  
not yet successful.

Our mother, their grandmother  
in an insane ~~Anger~~ because  
of the shock. The meeting  
will be held here in a few  
days. The call will be issued  
by Mr. Dager who is re-  
garded as the leader of  
everything in St. Louis.

I want to correct the  
impression that prevails here  
still that no warning  
was given by the storm  
of the coming destruction  
the storm was about to

work all along to full 4964  
course. We had letters from  
distant friends in various towns  
and cities which were written as  
late as August 20th, in none  
of the letters is mention made  
that the tornado was not  
heard by them. Henry who had  
parents working in the Angel  
Guardian Orphanage but lived in  
Golieth said the vibration of the  
noise broke the windows in his  
house.

I am sure if panic and over  
confidence did not possess the  
people the loss of life would  
have been small, I am sure  
that our friends did recognize  
the danger to Chesterbrown for the  
storm gave such warning by  
its awful insane uproar as I  
have seen asserted in all the  
papers. Yet all accounts agree  
from the testimony of legions of  
people that the uproar was  
heard as far as St. Louis. Was that  
no warning? The second and  
third engineers and fire man were  
in the basement of the convent  
at the time and so escaped  
injury. But they had a tough time  
to get out as the doors were jammed.



4965 "Here's another" contin-  
ued Mr Segree "The  
President sent the following  
message to Congress which  
was read to the senate and  
referred to the Committee on  
Illinois State Relations.

"To the Senate and House of  
Representatives.

The most greatest calamity  
in all History has befallen  
or fallen upon our fair  
Central State of Ill. The  
Mayor of St. Salle has  
telegraphed first to St Louis,  
and St Louis to Washington  
City under date of yesterday  
of the destruction of Chester  
Brown besides other cities  
that the disasters to the  
supposed to be tornado proof  
Gleason asylum, Sacred  
Heart Convent and Angel  
Guardian Orphanages and  
other great buildings are  
complete that they cease to  
exist and all children  
nuns and employees have  
perished. He is in inform-  
ed that an unestimated  
number of children have  
lost their lives or received

4971  
4968  
4966  
in common mission told me  
injuries that tortured them  
to insanity or crippled them  
for life, countless numbers  
of people are homeless  
and hungry and though there  
is urgent needs of all kinds of  
provisions and that the rest of  
vessels for the work of supply  
and rescue is imperately required  
they cant be reached because  
of the tremendous destruction of all  
communications, therefore the very nation  
is dumbfounded"

Great praise is still for however  
being given to Mr Segree. He  
has worked most indefatigably  
to succor the most badly  
wounded in his town. He has  
accepted only emergency cases.  
He and his wife and children  
has bandaged the limbs of  
the wounded in helping the  
almost overworked doctor with-  
out sleep without food, He is  
now thoroughly exhausted and needs  
a good rest.

Provisions are needed here  
too."

Shocked by the news of the  
destruction of the Convent and  
Orphanages James Monahan  
an aged merchant of New  
York sat silent and amazed on

4967 on the pier after  
leaving the New York Steamer  
in which he arrived from Chicago.  
Accompanied by his son and  
daughter James Monahan did not  
go to Chesterbourn.

"Suchy we had no one  
in the convent" said Mrs  
Monahan, The Orphanage, Con-  
vent and the other places  
were crowded with children. The  
Gleason and the Convent were  
also filled with the most  
valuable curios and mementoes  
from all over the world  
which all the money in the  
world cannot replace.

All these are swept away,  
It is said the loss will reach  
more than a billion dollars,  
We had many child  
friends among those places.  
Heaven praised we had no  
children there, I heard that  
those famous little child  
children missed being there  
fortunately."

Mr Monahan was so over-  
come by the news that he  
could not talk. In his  
younger days he had  
been one of the  
builders. He is in a hospital

recovery from shock" 4968

The people of Gleason City and  
the high officials of Gleason Asy-  
lum were rather proud of that  
corner of ground. It stood first  
as a point of great interest for  
artists. To them there had always  
been plenty of supposed evidence  
that it was a safe territory that  
no violent storms could pass over  
it and the easy going inmates  
of the Gleason Asylum believed it could  
hold off tornadoes and its usually  
magnificent scenery and small  
beautiful towns only gave it added  
value as a show place, places for  
outingos picnicks and entertainments  
and childrens games.

When the storm blew off its temper  
even the Countours of the grounds could  
not save itself, let alone turn off  
the turrent from its course and  
was wiped out

Now exactly what happened  
when the roaring storm came at  
the asylum could not be related  
much because of intense darkness  
but every one who knew the big  
asylum and its inmates can easily  
imagine the scenes of wild horror  
that must have been enacted  
when the excitable children and  
employers realized that escape  
was impossible. Talk about the  
strength and size and height  
and length of the orphanage.

4969

We know the sucking power of a leech, a lamprey, or the eel known as the Sea Hag. The Octopus or the Squid. The Tornado wind rush sucking power is a million times worse. That is why this Asylum and the others were so pulled away.

There too starvation will be a condition that'll exist in every town. Three thousand survivors need to be fed and sheltered by the Government near Chesterbrook and other places if supplies can reach them.

Other thousands are in need of food. But so far supplies cannot come in because of the destroyed communication. Such a vindictive storm, it is reported that even relief ships are blocked. If it was not for this destruction of communications there would be food in plenty. The water famine is causing more distress than the lack of food.

Many of the former water systems have been pulled out of the ground or disappeared. Only in the river is there any living water that can be reached. And the well,

George Mutton told me 4970 that noticing a violent oscillation of the barometer in his study room he hurried with his family to the basement an hour before the disaster. But his house was one of the 31 not on the path of the storm.

Over the entire course of the storm after it passed away into the distance there spread a peculiar mist which was injurious to the eyes and which contained noxious properties that caused much distress.

I will now read this. This request appears in the following statements in a Chicago Journal:

James Peter Prentie 851 Webster street son of Thomas J. Prentie fears that his two children perished in the Convent disaster where the terrible tornado annihilated the city of Chesterbrook and all its magnificent buildings, on that terrible August 15th.

When Mr. Prentie was informed of the destruction of the Convent and other big buildings crowded with children he was in his apartment reading a letter from his mother written a week after the disaster from St. Louis to where she had gone. In this a full mention was made of the

496 497/ warning roar of the  
room coming to the neigh-  
borhood of the City. The letter  
stated that the Chesterbourn  
Convent and his wife had  
just put their two children  
into the Convent where they might  
be liable to tornado visitation.  
Mr Prentis did feel that it was  
and not wise in Chesterbourn to do it  
and that his grandchildren  
should never be put there in  
the Convent.

Until a reporter called on  
him he had heard nothing  
of the catastrophe at Chesterbourn.  
"Mother writes me under  
date of August 20th that  
they came to Chesterbourn and  
saw the remains of what  
had been the Convent and the  
Angel Guardian orphanage. They  
had been believed to be able  
to resist the worst kind of a  
windstorm." said Mr Prentis.  
"The Convent is situated in  
the centre of the city near  
Lincoln Park which is also wiped  
out with everything on it.

The telegraph dispatches  
from St Louis which so far  
can only get the news who  
is in charge

he reached. and the crew

observatory is a close friend 4972  
of our family and always  
informed them of any changes in  
atmospheric conditions. He must have  
been able to know some thing  
about the impending disaster in  
time to warn them

"I have never been in the  
city of Chesterbourn" continued Mr  
Prentis "but I judge from what  
my family has written since  
going there that they saw the  
calamity that all is lost."

"We read this - 100 -"

"Mrs Annabelle Roony of the  
news of the terrible disaster at  
the Convent is still prostrated  
and won't believe it of the state-  
ment from St Louis. She is the  
second survivor of the Convent  
that her three singing children  
or even the other nine child  
singers were not even in  
Chesterbourn at the time of the  
awful calamity.

At the first time of learning  
of the tornado horror she had  
swooned into a strange trance  
and afterwards was in a serious  
condition and almost became an  
imbecile. Her sister Mildred  
Jean Roony and the latter's  
husband tried to convince her  
of Sister Clara's statement



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4973 but she still believes  
they have been killed."  
"myself" Mr. Dwyer  
said did get communication  
communications to them by  
wireless telegraph.  
They had answered me  
back they know of the  
awful catastrophe but destroyed  
communications bar cut them  
off everywhere and their parents  
can't find trains to take. They  
say the only hope is  
to get some train first  
to Kansas City, another to  
St. Louis and then from  
St. Louis to St. Paul. They'll  
try it next week."  
The convent was built  
on a large space of ground  
and in some way did  
resemble the Gleason Oratory  
but was longer wider and  
much higher, and had the  
most beautiful fountain  
terraces the world had ever  
seen.  
It was a most beautiful  
building and most of its  
grounds had temperate zone  
botanical gardens the  
world had ever seen  
anywhere. Even the

we reached. And the were

which for beauty 4974  
and strength excelled anything  
the world have ever seen. The  
roof was of the most fantastic  
plan of ornamentation ever constructed.  
The stained colored picture wind-  
ows of the chapel had the best  
illustrations of religious pictures  
ever made.

The building was built close  
to the northwest end of the  
park and is separated from it  
by the wide Illinois River.  
For suddenness, completeness and  
number of missing victims the  
destruction of the vast convent  
and all its ground and gardens  
appears to surpass all disasters  
recorded in history of all  
storms.  
You can't one third find its  
equal in the convent destruction  
in Omaha which was hit by  
a most violent tornado there  
March 23 of this year on  
Easter Sunday. But no one was  
hurt in that convent there.

Its near equal is the convent  
at St. Paul but everybody  
escaped there. Although some  
light has been thrown on the  
character of this terrible  
tornado by what the  
big changes and the convent

In the manner in which the terrific wind were deflected in the direction of the Gleason Asylum after some unseen power bounced it off from Western City presents the most difficult problems connected with the disaster which the most best scientific experts which will be called upon to explain, or investigate.

the reached. And the were

A remarkable phenomenon was witnessed in Easter when the Easter Tornado at Omaha occurred. It naturally changing the geographical outline of the City as it raged on in its main vicinity wiping out Bernes Park.

on that occasion according to maps it took a sort of straight bee line but with nearly as much an explosive force which tore out all of the Pennis Park district and hurled the fragments with desolating force in a direction close to the streets which it also tore up.

Or it cannot compare to this Chesterbourn honor.

On the occasion just referred to there was another phenomenon which had been witnessed during the onward progress of the tornado. An enormous volume of tornado debris was by the suction pulled high into the air - it attained the height it has been

4977 estimated of fully  
26 thousand feet where it was  
taken both by the counter-  
currents of the upper parts of  
unriversable phlegmon and  
by the outward running and  
flung walled across across  
more than a hundred miles  
of land as fine debris in  
all directions directly contrary  
to that of other different  
directions of wind and then  
deposited in all forms of  
small wreckage as far as  
Bloomington and Sun color  
all and surrounding cities  
in far north.

The same phenomenon  
was noted during the exposure  
fury of the storm as it tore  
through Chesterbourn, to as far  
as Chicago although the winds  
were northwest at the same  
time. Could all this horror  
been caused by the storm  
breaking bouncing off Gleason  
City?

For two days even a week  
after the Armageddon storm  
the scientific corps of the  
Weather Bureau at Washington  
had tried to figure and  
had been engaged in study-  
ing the direction and force  
of these strange upper  
air current of this winter

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and the phenomena connected 4978  
with this most violent storm  
and will assist materially in  
arranging at some conclusions. Ex-  
perienced geologists and meteorologists  
accompanied the river boat on the  
Mississippi for the purpose of  
studying these and the other many  
extraordinary phenomena of the tornado  
on the grounds and valuable scientific  
results must follow.

The main thing is what really  
really had been the cause of  
its most violent sucking power.

There has never been uter-  
nized in the experience of  
human beings so awful a scene  
of destruction that as that tornado  
horror from Johnstonown to  
Gameville.

The accounts of the cataclysm  
in which so many children  
were in less than thirty  
seconds from Orphan Asylum  
and Convent were overwhelmed  
by the fiercest wind ever seen  
well may well make the  
proudest proudest man feel  
how tiny he is and insigni-  
ficant he also is and also  
indeed the rest of humanity  
too in the fury of one of  
Old Mothers Nature's mighty  
and mysterious atmospheric  
throes.

4979 There is no disaster  
to my idea that even can  
be imagined to play the  
picture of Hell to compare to  
this tornado disaster. I know  
Milton was the greatest poet  
especially his imaginations  
led him to the infernal regions  
and all its flaming terror  
as he conceived them and its  
heinous and appalling fury  
and such an immeasurable  
horror of Chesterbourn and its  
Convent Calamity compare to  
it?

Can any one compare to  
the story of the experience  
of those hapless survivors  
of both Orphanage and the  
Supermarket up or whom  
the exploded section threw  
forth its annihilating storm.

I know all sorts of  
great prophets have fore-  
told the Day of Judgement  
even great visions of it has  
been foretold by the Universal  
priests but they could not  
even impress all people who  
even seen this disaster  
with more horror than the  
extinction as in a moment  
of the Sacred Heart Convent  
and the Angel Guardian

Orphanage by the blast 4980  
and whirl wind of unearthly  
forces. No event of all storm  
can be so impressive. It is  
a wind holocaust that nobody  
could and would believe could  
ever happen.

It is said that there is  
nothing like a full contemplation  
of your earthquake, your volcano,  
hurricane or your 'tornado' for  
knocking out all conceit and  
vanity out of us human beings.  
Even now the City of Salford  
and Moline beside Daven-  
port is still filled thousands  
of refugees all the way from  
Chesterbourn and they say more  
are constantly coming from  
even Bunny Heery and other places  
round about.

The terror is taking a new  
form. There is imminent danger  
of starvation because of all the  
communication being destroyed  
keep can't yet get here. The victims  
of the awful disaster who have  
escaped with their lives and  
even without injury are in a daze  
and appear helpless as little  
children.

They are suffering from destitute-  
tion of everything save the few  
garments on their backs. The  
food supply cannot yet reach them.



we reached. And the crew

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4982 stormy petrel to  
 tell when a disaster of  
 this kind was to occur,  
 I don't attempt to assign  
 a scientific reason for  
 this but I cite it as a  
 fact that everything up  
 here grew very restless  
 just before this something  
 dreadful happened right  
 here.

I had been inclined to be-  
 lieve that the deaths among  
 the orphans of both Asylums  
 and the Convent had been  
 greatly yes much greatly  
 exaggerated. because when there  
 is a disaster excitement after  
 words causes people to exag-  
 gerate.

But seeing is convincing.  
 I went far beyond far were  
 worse than any exasperation.  
 I was standing on grounds  
 where there were a few  
 fragments of a very thick  
 sidewalk of concrete. I saw  
 a body of men not far  
 off standing and looking  
 on examining a very huge  
 but badly shattered  
 magnolia tree. I went up  
 to them and asked  
 "Where is what is left of

we reached. and the were

the Gleason Asylum. I'm 4983  
 a reporter on a tour and would  
 like some information? The  
 man I asked was looking down  
 hearted and very sober. He  
 said nothing but pointed to  
 the tree. I felt sick. Some of them  
 laid me on a board, poured  
 river water on my head and  
 called a doctor.

I'm still in the hospital from  
 shock but to continue my story  
 The Gleason Asylum is front of  
 a long wide contour of land  
 of very low long slanting  
 hills with sheltered spots  
 where hundreds of people  
 living in towns there were literally  
 blown away.

The contour of ground is  
 cut up the upper sections  
 of the low hills are no more  
 all the trees and towns are  
 gone I really believe that  
 we will learn in a few days  
 that this was no ordinary  
 winter. It was too extraor-  
 dinary for that. It is a mystery  
 what caused it to have such  
 immeasurable force.

But I am not so sure after  
 all we have heard the  
 worst of all this. That big  
 Gleason Orphanage was a real

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4984 real delight for  
 place for children to be  
 and everything about the  
 building is intended to  
 charm the visitor.

It is a miniature of a great  
 palace. It is like a Oz  
 fairy land miniature very  
 large and long and  
 really I have never seen  
 a spot more beautiful  
 more poetic.

The history of all tornados  
 would assure the fulfillment  
 of my predictions. "Was there  
 any alarm felt by all of those  
 in the Gleason Asylum when  
 you were there?" was asked  
 of Mr. Marks.

"Well as well as far back  
 of August 12th absolutely  
 not. No one expected that  
 the grand contour of the very  
 ground would ever let  
 an old timer tear it up  
 to interminable devastation  
 and sent forth at the  
 Gleason Asylum a storm of  
 the wildest wind and death with  
 the annihilation of all the  
 uphange.

It was unbroken for. That sort  
 sort of ground was regarded  
 by all in the Asylum as a  
 sort of very strong protection

even the children had 4985-  
 an almost superstitious affection  
 for it. From the very outskirts of  
 the Asylum the ground rose very  
 gradually, some sections to more  
 than ten feet in sides & grown  
 thick with high rich grass and  
 all kinds of flowers and dotted  
 here and there with spreading  
 but magnificent shrubbery, towns  
 villages and most of trees.

There was no pleasanter  
 spot for an outing in some  
 afternoon on a journey up the  
 green velvet like long rise of  
 ground and a view of the quaint  
 picturesque Magolan River and  
 the ships at the quays.

This territory was actual  
 peace itself. It seemed to promise  
 perpetual and the best and most  
 complete protection ever imaginable.

Even the very people of  
 Gleason City relied upon it to  
 keep back dangerous storm from  
 that territory, and to frighten  
 with its stern appearance the  
 tornados from the west.

But it was expected to allow  
 the coming of the well needed  
 rains of summer and the welcome  
 winter snows, Big blizzards  
 they really enjoyed.

... as they appeared

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4986 I wonder what the  
trustful and worshipful  
people thought, when the  
grand contour of land began  
to fail them. As near as I  
can ascertain the tornado  
bouncing from west Gleason  
was forced to change its  
course and came at the  
ground contour from the  
south west

From the position of the  
grounds the tornado must  
have tore straight into  
this territory sweeping  
through its west district first  
and next blotting out  
the length of the grounds.  
Then it crashed head on  
upon the Gleason Asylum.  
Had some one three weeks  
ago when I was visiting  
the Gleason Asylum told the  
inmates and head employees  
that a tornado would cross  
the grounds and hurl death  
and injury upon them and  
wipe out their home he would  
be laughed at.

I can hear the placid for-  
bearing inmates, president  
and others say:

"Oh no, Oh no," The con-  
tour of the ground is our

protector, it will not let  
any destroyer of a cyclone even  
come near us." But no one ever  
suspected suggested it because no  
one ever suspected it. Nothing  
can stop a tornado, and a high  
is never in its way.

It was said that a large  
part of the population living in  
the contour had been killed or  
injured by this vicious storm.

Governor Sewelyn Able Cannon  
of this territory was killed and  
also the colonial officer of its  
town of Jena is completely blown  
away. I when leaving the hospital  
he continued on arrived at what  
had been the contour three days  
ago I found the state of  
affairs much far worse than  
was given in the reports  
forwarded by the administrator  
and his investigators.

The contour grounds is along-  
side the Illinois River between  
Polk Rock and the Gleason  
Asylum. a stretch of sixteen  
miles, of which six miles of  
it was traversed and devastated.  
I do believe this territory was  
the hardest hit of all others.  
The number of killed will  
never be known as they disappeared



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4988 like those of the Sacred Heart Convent. Jena town ceased to exist. The managers and owners of estates with their families and several of the better class of people and the mayors of all the towns either were killed or disappeared like the rest.

Not one person was found, and all the towns are gone, yet it is stated that 160 from there were sent to the hospitals in Glasgow city. Probably one of this number will recover.

The details are too harrowing to describe, all the trees are gone not even a root is left in the ground, even the shrubbery and grass and flowers are gone. The hill tops are torn away. The

\*\*\*

se establishment, we fail to see how a gun owner's  
on law in Illinois is going to endanger national security.  
ankly are not entirely pleased with the registration  
feel it should be stronger, and that more severe penalties  
acted out to those who violate the law. But we applaud  
representatives who beat back the repeal effort and we hope  
balance and concern in this area continues.

extent of the awful calamity  
is now being realized and  
every effort is being made  
to grapple with it. all

the best sugar estates 7899  
in this territory have been devastated  
and all the cattle are dead, I went  
on foot to Jena on the road the  
remains of a man and horse were  
passed. Further on was seen the  
body of a man at the foot of a  
pendetal where the big statue of  
the Blessed Virgin had been on its  
top, he apparently having been  
killed while praying.

The large twelve foot statue of the Blessed Virgin which stood on the pedestal was hurled two miles distant from its base.

All the beautiful vegetation had disappeared. Not a sprig of green was to be seen anywhere. Since stock had died,

All plantations and villages were actually gone. All areas of cultivation were found to be wiped out. Five other such plantations were gone. A town called Kingston is safe but Georgetown is gone.

In the hospitals at Gleason where  
are 187 sufferers from the ground  
contion who are now being  
for with little chance that any of  
them will recover, I wonder if it was  
the fault of the head of the  
Gleason Asylum Superintendent that  
he was deceived by the Comission

I hope he runs out for  
I can't see where he is to  
blame and believe me I  
know he was more seriously  
injured than all the other  
survivors. The destruction of  
those grounds is most appalling.  
at what is left of Moundlodge  
on the northwest portion  
of the ground contains the  
once magnificent townhall  
\* \* \*

with side with courage and with concern for the safety of

is still standing on the first floor story where at the 69/91/7 river side part also in the northwestern part

The Cathedral tower built by the Jesuits a half century ago of <sup>gl</sup> Cyclopean work of mason is now like a huge heap of old metal. It is said that for twenty minutes tornado conditions had been threatening the contour of grounds after severing off from Gleason City but whatever was happening it seemed produced <sup>not</sup> normally that it was permissible for even those who were

4982. inclined ~~who~~ to  
look on the dark side not  
to dread a catastrophe  
though of course it was grow-  
ing dark, and also a noise  
in the air as if all the devils  
and angels were having a  
mortal combat.

At Jena where the agit-  
ation of the coming storm  
attracted as it raged on much  
attention and anxiety which  
existed, gradually grew worse  
and much louder when  
almost suddenly a violent  
explosion of most violent  
wind, overwhelmed Jena  
blowing away nearly every-  
thing and most of the people  
leaving only 23 dead per-  
son behind and then  
within the course of less  
than fifteen minutes the  
whole 6 mile length of  
the grounds was annihilated.

At the beginning of the  
middle section of the contour  
the storm came like all  
the atmosphere had gone out  
of its bounds throwing all  
precaution to the four  
winds and this first

portion was torn madly away 4903  
by a cloud of belly bursting  
honor which increased as it advanced  
and wild was the fury of the  
storm attack that it swept  
away everything in its course.

In the lower contour near the  
storm swept river nothing was  
left, except a half wall of the  
strong city hall tower at Jena.

To the stupefaction of those very  
familiar with the spot the town  
electric tower clock and tower itself  
remained intact as if to show  
the precise moment of this awful  
disaster, and this sinister indication  
deeply affected all who saw it. It stopped  
at four thirty.

On the other hand the telegraph  
office was missed but still its  
contents were mysteriously burned.  
Some fragments of the apparatus  
of the wiped out telephone exchange  
were thrown away as they say as  
far as a hundred thousand yards.

Bodies of persons for Jena that  
were found the same distance  
away and whose attitude were  
perceptible were lying prostrate  
with the bowels bowels and  
other organs protruding all the  
way out heart also protruding  
through the split open chest  
as though forced out by the

4904 way they were flung  
about or pulled out by the force  
and fury of the wind, and  
with the backs partially or  
nearly carbonized by the heated  
wind.

It is a melancholy and  
most humiliating thing that  
this should happen here,  
yet the damage done to the  
contour of the grounds by  
this inexorable storm is now  
known to be immensely  
greater and a more wiper  
outer than was at first so  
estimated.

The immense estate of  
Millionaire Wallow Pierre  
Marat has disappeared and  
has been replaced by ground  
debris from other parts of the  
ground contour, interesting  
and unbelievable discoveries  
have been made regarding  
physical changes of the  
ground resulting from the  
storm fury.

Several two feet deep  
wide fissures torn out by  
the immeasurable force of  
the wind have been observed  
on the contour.

Henry Richmond Poles -  
Pierre an estate adjacent  
to Pierre Marat which was  
formerly flat and upon which

there were several laborers 7905-  
collages has been completely blown  
to the four winds and out of the  
estate there now rises a long  
ridge of debris thrown and scattered  
there from other parts. Yet since  
the from passing of the unsurpass-  
able phlegmon the condition of  
the atmosphere is also apparently  
improving.

The sulphurous fumes are almost  
gone. Owing to the destruction of  
the estates all farm crops are  
are torn away. What has caused the  
formation of the noxious vapors  
after the storm we'd like to know.

Physicians who made examinations  
said that in most cases death  
also could have been added by  
asphyxiation if the noxious gas  
had been strong enough and was  
akin to weak fire damp, which settled  
upon the territory with the storm  
recession and also almost renders the  
survivors insensible.

This theory is accepted by  
the survivors who were taken  
from the ruined river steamers  
near there on the river harbor  
as they said their experience  
when the storm rushed away  
was one of strange faintness.  
It was reported by those



4906 who arrived from the ground contour before the storm August 14th that the very dumb animals of all kinds were wiser than their masters or mistresses. Atmospheric conditions long gave warning of the prodigious storm of wind it was stirring up for the contour to hurl upon it.

Residents of the contour saw and heard the warning in the great uncommon night till noon thunderstorm and they refused to heed them.

They remained and the danger which had long confronted them brought death to unknown numbers of them.

Even before noon on the fifteenth before the storm even showed signs of formation live stock of all kinds became very uneasy and at times almost uncontrollable by their owners and masters and some ran away to the far distant southern fields.

And they couldn't be enticed or forced back. Little showed in the meantime in fact for they showed all

the night before. All 4907 dogs howled and began to seek the company of their masters who did not drive them forth out of love and sympathy. As they gave every evidence of great their masters began to suspect something amiss but could not ascertain what.

Even wild animals disappeared from the grounds, even the garter and other snakes which in ordinary times are found in great numbers and are valuable for farmers crawled away. Birds ceased singing and also were gone.

Chickens would not stop their loud squaking and headchatter sounds, ducks and other birds kept up a continual commotion and farm geese disappeared away. Donkeys asses and mules kept up an endless loud braying.

A great fear seemed to be upon the contour and though it after all was shared by the human inhabitants they alone neglected to protect themselves, then the paper said on -

"For this man the grim

4908 many of fate did  
speak for him. Her name  
I believe is Walter John  
Harrison. He was a janitor  
in the Genl Post Office from  
him was had the only story  
that has been told of the  
overwhelming of the small  
Contour City.

He was an American born  
Irishman a native of Genl.  
Besides English he speaks  
Irish fluently. He was at  
that time working in the  
basement cellar placing pro-  
visions in order in the cellar  
he sorted food cartons and  
fruit, especially oranges, lemons  
and apples.

He was in the cellar  
when probably the end came  
for so every other living  
thing in the ground contour  
except himself and an  
old woman who has since  
died.

"It was nearly four thirty  
in the afternoon that it  
occured" he said I had  
been working in the back  
yard and disturbed by  
such intense darkness  
and a howling sound in  
the distance I went back

to the 4909  
cellar. The air was  
stifling and the noise was  
increasing. There was an  
awful dark cloud over  
head but that was not  
unusual as we had a very  
bad thunderstorm. The

night and noon before.  
I went back into the  
cellar to get out of the  
heat and was near the  
foot of the steps leading  
down from the yard  
when there was a sudden  
increase in the noise.

It was an awful hum-  
ming sound but it was as  
loud as though all the  
thunder that ever roared  
and all the cannon in  
the world had been set off  
at once.

I fell on my face knock-  
ed down by the shaking  
of the earth by the continual  
concussion. I could not have  
lain there for twenty seconds

4910 I could not have been  
there any longer when I  
recovered my senses, there  
was an awful roaring  
sound as though all the  
houses were being torn  
to pieces or swept away.  
It was perfectly black  
all about me and down  
through the door of the cellar  
there was a blast of wind  
coming that was hell's fury.  
I thought I had died and  
was in hell.

The door of the cellar  
ranging shut with a most  
loud bang and to avoid  
avoid the furious wind I  
lay still. The more and  
fury of the storm almost  
drove me mad, I felt I  
could not dare stay there.  
I found the door and tried  
to open it. Finally I did  
but the wind was blow-  
ing such a wild gale  
I did not dare go out  
side.

There was a pandemonium  
of awful sounds. It was  
very dark and the  
air was full of clouds  
of flying ground, and

dirt and debris and I went 4911  
blind. I dipped a rag in a water  
bucket and tied it over my face.  
I held fast to the door as some  
suction within the cellar tried to  
push me out.

The roaring was fearful  
of breaking houses but it was  
peace compared to the thunderous  
roar of the mighty storm that  
lasted way of over a minute.  
When the wind storm stopped  
I made my way on my hands  
and knees to what was left of  
the back wall of the Post office  
yard.

I took the rag off my eyes and  
saw that the wall had almost  
been blown away and the roof  
had been hurled into the river.  
The post office was on the edge  
of the water. The front part  
of the post office or what was left  
of it seemed to be moving  
along with some mysterious  
strange movement of the very  
ground.

I thought I was mad. I could  
not see anything about me  
for ten feet. It was so dark  
there was nothing in sight.

A most dreadful lightning

4911 "as if" - rushing across  
the sky. The heat fol-  
lowing the terrific wind storm  
made me frantic and I  
threw myself down over the  
broken wall into the water.  
The thunder seemed to split  
the sky and the rain was  
a cloud burst

I broke my left leg when I fell on the stones, I tried to crawl along the river bank and found a place under a large overhanging rock where from the river I could get some water. I stayed there all night sheltered from the torrents of rain and all the next day.

I could see out but saw  
no house tree or persons.  
The next day I continued  
to crawl along the south  
bank of the river. I saw  
no man nor woman child  
nor even a dog. There  
were not trees or  
houses or even anything  
in sight. I must have  
fainted for I knew  
nothing more until I  
found myself in a hospital

and my left leg in a cast" 49/2  
Another report says: "The winds  
of the storm have made a barren  
and most horrible waste of what  
was a week before the tornado  
one of the garden spots of the  
world, and the ruin wrought  
by the phlegmon fell far short of  
the reality.

Most remarkable are the topographical changes wrought by the mighty storm. At the passing of the storm the sky was most curious from a strange violent electrical phenomena. At times the air was cut and slashed with electric discharges and during the late dark evening a ball of fire and luminous clouds lighted up the ruined country for miles.

country for miles.  
What caused it, and over the entire territory there was for hours after the storm a peculiar mist ~~was~~ which was injurious to the eyes and which contained noxious properties that caused much distress. During the progress of the storm there seemed to be a mighty wrenching and shaking of the air with a noise that sounded as if all the powers of the universe were struggling above your head.



4913 at the close of High  
masses in all the Roman  
Catholic Church of this whole  
country in the morning  
of August 18. the funeral psalm  
and requiem were chanted  
and prayers for the dead  
were said in memory for  
all those who perished in  
the worst tornado horror  
on all record.

The congregations actually  
over crowded the churches and  
immense collections for the  
aid of the injured sufferers  
and homeless were taken  
up. Even the twelve most  
famous singing children  
out of their funds had  
masses said for the victims.  
They had mourned long  
over the disaster for  
many of the child victims  
in the convent and the  
Angel Guardian Orphanage  
had been their best and  
loving friends.

And now they're gone.  
The poor thirteen  
children ~~we~~  
could not stand  
the news and  
were prostrated over it  
and their marrow as soft.

Mr. Ron Pinkowski  
Department of Streets  
Room 704  
320 N. Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois  
Dear Mr. Pinkowski:

April 23, 1969

McCUTCHEON  
MAN 43RD WARD  
1600 N. PARK WEST, 60614  
N. EASTGATE 7-3664



CITY COUNCIL  
SECOND FLOOR, CITY HALL  
TELEPHONE: 744-6800

and they're hospitalized 4914  
because of the shock. 4914  
Even while in the hospital  
they had broke down and cried  
over what had actually taken  
place. Their cries had grown  
louder.

Now they're all dead because  
of the awful disaster and we can  
never go and see them again.

Their nurse tried as hard as  
they could to comfort them the  
children could not be quieted  
and kept weeping harder  
than ever.

For the awful thought had  
suddenly come to them that  
all should die while they had  
been so far away from them.

And then after a long time  
when they would go to the  
scene of the disaster everything  
would be as still as death  
and they would be all alone  
and could never see again  
all their dear ones.

A sedative finally quieted  
them and put them to sleep.

Appropriate services for  
the storm victims were held  
in all non Catholic churches  
also throughout this country  
and collections to aid the sufferers  
were taken up.

4915 Like wise such a  
terrible catastrophe as that  
which overwhelmed a  
beautiful contour landscape  
paralleling the destruction  
of Pompeii and repeating it-  
self upon the Gleason  
Cape, as if simply blotting  
out the contour as a land  
of fair homes and exting-  
uishing its agriculture and  
business and destroying half  
half of the (hills) hills  
hills raises the old  
question again how our much  
better Theism can deal with  
such an awful event.

Like wise think of the  
sudden fury of this  
most powerful of all type of  
(tornadoes) tornado. Even the  
cities of Sodom and Gora  
Gomorra did not meet such  
a fate. The people of the  
contour grounds were no special  
wicked kind. Its people  
were more decent than  
those of the cities and they  
needed so far as we can  
ascertain no slight find-  
ing judgement from heaven  
or hell. Likewise all the  
people were staunch  
faithful Catholics.

Some say the problem 4916  
to a constant materialist is  
somewhat easy. To him all is  
involved in the chain of the  
natural forces which have no  
purpose and no praise or blame  
what was in the principal egg  
of cosmic-must had to involve  
itself into unthinking and also  
unfeeling.

We can strongly grieve and  
lament fatefully, or we can rejoice  
but the arrow shot from the  
original nebular standard moves  
straight on unknown and relentless.  
There they say is a chain of  
cause and effect and effect  
follows cause mechanically. There  
is law only law and no will  
no heart no love and no actual  
hate.

Such is the view of the very  
materialist and it offers the  
comfort of despair. But Theism has  
before it the same facts the  
same relentlessness of the  
hard heated old old mother  
nature. If our God is good  
why does He allow evil,  
the tornadoes blow the awful  
earthquakes shake the volcanoes  
burst to pieces quite regardless of  
the presence of humanity.

4917 Indeed the belief  
in a Divine superintend-  
ing almighty Power brings  
in a fresh difficulty the  
difficulty which every thinking  
soul of man has felt of  
the permission of evil again  
likewise if God is good why  
does He allow evil.

Can He not keep it? Is  
He all powerful, or is He  
not all good?

Believing in the three  
Divine Persons as God we  
believe or probably know  
that He created nature  
and gave it its laws. There  
are those whose notion  
of God requires  
them to believe that He  
gave nature no laws or  
powers, but that every  
chemical combination every  
evaporation of a drop of  
dew is a special act of  
Divine will exercised on  
nature and they say what  
we call laws of nature are  
only God's habit of doing  
things.

This is a needless way  
of maintaining the Divine  
rule over nature, it involves

involves the disagreeable 4918  
thoughts that every mischief  
of fever, horrible rashes, lock  
jaw or flood or disastrous  
storms or flame of volcanic  
explosions, earthquake or tidal  
wave is the effect of a special  
volition of God to that particular  
end.

It is wiser and more phil-  
osophical as well as more natural  
to think of nature as controlled by  
laws imposed upon it those laws  
acting automatically although  
their action can likewise to some  
extent be controlled or diverted  
by the opposing will of living  
beings. The weakest tornadoes can  
uproot a whole farm tear up  
the very fields to a depth of three  
or four feet, reduce the home  
and barn to splinters or dust  
and smother the wife and her  
whole family out.  
A tornado can suck up the  
growth of grass in a pasture, grass  
deep ground and all it can turn  
a part of a wood into mere  
splinters of debris, a field of wheat  
into a mass of flying  
clouds, or a sandy shore of a  
river into a plain of sand and country  
indeed. I can make a shambles  
of the of a city it tears through  
and uproots a town. It can  
suck up a stream or lake.

4919 The theist must think  
of God as having made  
laws for nature that are  
good in their general effect.  
That hydrogen should  
combine with oxygen to  
form water is very good  
that carbon and oxygen  
should make carbonic acid  
is good and vegetation  
depends on it.

But every law though  
generally beneficial can  
and may be exceptionally  
injurious in its action  
especially like this harden  
yet that is no reason  
why its steady rule should  
fail.

We must learn to under-  
stand its rules and to avoid  
its evils. We must not stop  
in the streets like many  
did gawking at a coming  
tornado storm, its like  
stepping off the edge of a  
precipice in the dark and  
also do we need to build  
build our cities and towns  
in a "cyclone alley" no.

We must learn to  
rejoice in the beneficence  
of the law and submit

submit to its unavoidable  
injuries. The comfort and the  
peace must come in the thought  
of the general goodness of law and  
the advantage that follow from the  
fact that we depend on its  
certainty.

We do not need to wait for  
some great catastrophe to learn  
this lesson. When a friend goes  
and gets ill and then dies  
we are not to think of it as  
some judgement of Heaven on us  
for our sins, as if God were  
sending a special chastisement,  
we are to think of it as nature,  
and so God, were way of removing  
and renewing the generations, and  
of our ignorance or neglect  
of some law of nature has  
hastened the end of ones life.  
We should take that blame  
to ourselves and to learn the  
more how to make these laws  
our kindly servants.

If to some minds this  
seems to remove God further  
from us, seated behind the  
law, to other wiser minds  
God will be seen enthroned  
within the law giving it its  
power and rejoicing as should  
we in its general beneficence.



4921 no greater cataclysm  
so awfully known in  
the annals of civilized man  
than that which swept the  
contour of ground with the  
unbelievable following awful  
destruction of the Gleason  
Asylum in the lead.

But likewise the influ-  
ences of romance and  
romantic history still casts  
a mournful glow about  
the territory of the Gleason  
Asylum and that eruptive  
tornado which wiped away the  
classical contour of ground  
and engulfing the Asylum  
and made it the most  
vivid and appalling of all  
the greatest catastrophes  
of nature.

We can transport ourselves  
in imagination much more  
easily to this ground contour  
before the awful storm  
than to the same kind  
of storm that ravaged  
western Omaha on Easter  
March the Twenty Third  
this year for all the  
resources of the imaginat-  
ion are instantly called  
into play.

4922  
It was the most purely and  
most beautifully pictorial era  
in which the world has ever  
known. The catastrophe then  
enacted on these beautiful  
territory of grounds had a setting  
of physical and artistic beauty  
such as have never since  
been conjoined in so great a  
measure.

These grounds indeed are now  
not so extant and is left in a  
formation very much modified  
from that which was known  
to Illinois before this great  
tornado. Likewise now the very  
architectural beauty by which  
man had supplemented the  
beauty of nature is laid waste  
now for six miles and it  
is feared will never return  
to its old time splendor and  
magnificence.

Why do destroyers usually  
choose beautiful spots and  
territories to devastate. Even by  
the help and cultivation of  
man this contour of ground  
had reached the climate even  
of farm and landscape  
prosperity. Raised to the rank.

4923 of paradize territory it had been recognized as a national territorial colony under (President) President. Lincoln in 1864. She had become the Paradise and the centre of the Tennesse and Magale river main commerce. Situated near the shores of the most beautiful rivers in the world it lay between Gleason City and Wentworth Railroad which had come to be considered the unsurpassed beauty spot in the world.

And the darn tornado would come along and destroy it.

For how long before even that or this time this territory had been in this so called cyclone territory is not known.

This much is certain however that from the coming of the first white men here the weather had given no signs of ever going to ever see a tornado.

Lincoln seemed indeed recognized it as a sort of territory threatened by dangerous storms but weather

4  
departments did not include 4924 it in their list of suspected tornados. Since the storm the countour of ground presents a far different appearance from that which it exhibited then.

Of this extraordinary and inexorable catastrophe which so unexpectedly resulted we have an excellent account of an eyewitness in a letter written by an eye-witness, a son of a farmer whose property was not on the countour, to his son.

His son had asked an account of the destruction of the beautiful territory which had perished during the dreadful phenomenon. This afforded the father an opportunity of detailing all the circumstances from the beginning untill it got too dark to see what the storm was actually doing.

In this fateful August the fifteenth, nineteen hundred and thirteen we learn from the statement that both the farmer and the son with the lady who was his Aunt were on the farm near the countour where the elder farmer was out in the field at that time.

1925

"On the fifteenth of August  
says the farmers son about  
thirty five minutes after 4 P.M.  
my mother called my father's  
attention to a long very wide  
cloud shroud of very strange  
extraordinary size and shape.  
It rose high high like  
the big smoke of a big  
Western prairie fire.

He left the field at  
once and went forth on a  
height where he might  
more distinctly view the  
strange phenomenon.

As it was getting very  
dark it was not at that  
distance discernable from where  
it was coming from.

I cannot find a more  
exact description of the  
figure than as I said before  
than by comparing it to  
the big high rising smoke of  
a big Western prairie fire.

But it was in great  
agitation, the central interior  
section being in such fright-  
ful convulsions and uproar  
that I immediately started  
for my cyclone cellar though

4926

It did not all appear to head for  
my farm, I yelled to my father  
to follow but I guess he did  
not hear me because of the awful  
racket. And his curiosity was  
aroused.

It became evident that the  
phenomenon was an unusual and  
and most threatening one. I  
stopped running as I saw it  
was racing for the ground  
contour. Just before it disappeared  
by being enveloped in a black  
and ominous darkness the inward  
section of the shroud seemed  
to go mad.

"Come pa" I yelled through my  
loud speaking trumpet. "It might  
come to us. That's a wild tornado."

But he didn't hear me because  
of the deafening uproar. By the  
concussion the fields rocked  
like the sea and there was a  
terrible vibration in the air that  
broke the glass of the windows  
of our house.

We really did think that  
our farm was beset by real  
imminent and terrible danger there-  
for Pa, Ma me and our farmhands

1927 went hastily to turn  
our horses and other domestic  
animals loose from their corals and  
to bring away out of danger if  
possible the cows and the sheep.

Advised to forsake and save  
themselves the men refused to  
do so.

On they worked driving the  
cattle to the southeast through an  
atmosphere each second growing  
darker and more hazy and  
stifling. Our ears were deafened  
by the roar of the storm. In  
the river roadstead a ship was  
trying to run downstream away  
from the oncoming shroud and  
sounding her siren which however  
could not be heard above the  
storm.

With steam up another ship  
stood ready to run as soon  
as the former party of ours  
could get away and head for the  
river. Finally our brave men  
were forced to abandon their  
attempt to release the sheep  
as the ship added to the  
general din its note of  
alarm and white out of

the shy curved rocks  
broken trees and clouds of dirt crops  
and other debris. 4928

My father saw added to the  
wide shroud a column of debris  
apparently heading for the con-  
tours and apparently spreadingwards  
the farm. Directing his men  
to make all haste back to the  
cyclone cellar, he turned aside  
to give warning to the other parties  
turning loose the live stock.

"For God's sake get to the  
cyclone cellar quickly if you  
would save your lives, the tornado  
has exploded into maddening fury  
and destruction is upon us."

At that instant the storm  
was making a combination of  
two sounds like a hum above  
and a noise along the ground  
of a howl and crashing sound  
as loud as if it were hundreds  
of thunder claps in one. It did  
not die out and the loud siren  
of the ships which were in  
the river roadstead though  
screaming a warning could  
not be heard. Other river  
steamers immediately put their



4924 way down the river  
at top speed without cessation  
the whistles of others were blowing. I could know it by their steam. The sky was filled with extraordinary lightning, working with us were a couple of negroes

He in every of all our men was worthy of the greatest praise. They refused to abandon the sheep. 'If we die' one of them said. 'we will die with the sheep'

As rapidly as possible the men succeeded in releasing the sheep for the pens. One of the men stumbled.

His fellows waited until he could recover himself when all went desperately to work together.

Each minute the sky darkened. The fury of the storm was beyond comprehension. But by a fortunate turn of some kind the great crazy cloud yelled past us and our lives were saved and the farm too."

"Bringing two survivors of the '936' devastated town of Jena which went through the worst windstorm on all record. On the terrible afternoon of August 15th the Feast of the Assumption and was swept by a suction power that pulled all away with it the Santa Fe by a roundabout way, reached St Louis on August 23 in the morning.

The men who passed through that most awful experience are Captain Charles Thompson Scott and William Peter Schloeder who was in the ill fated town. Mr Scott is a stalwart man of forty. On the trip he told a newspaper correspondent John Carey Williams and passengers on his coach his story of this inexorable horror.

Both he and William Schloeder were still much very badly shaken by their experience and could only tell by snatches what really happened. This is his narrative which I wrote down for the Daily Chicagoan Chicago News:-

"The Rock Island Social arrived at Jone Ill. at half past 3. o'clock

4931 and stopped at the station.

There were about sixty eight passengers on the train, the conductors, porters, some peddlers. I went out to superintend the removal of merchandise from the baggage coach assigned to the town itself.

Three hundred yards away was one of the streets of the town. We were ~~two~~ <sup>less</sup> than an hour and a half on there when the skies grew very dark overhead as if another awful thunderstorm was coming.

The sun seemed to have gone out and the city became as indistinct as almost night. The Mayor came out of his house at that moment to see how severe the storm might be and with a look of fright on his face at what I suppose he saw spring for the basement of his house.

He had barely reached the steps going down to it when there was a pandemonium of noise as if all the sky and ground

had gone insane out of its bounds. Everything seemed to be rent by a most terrific tumult. Even a thousand claps of thunder at one time could not be heard amidst this uproar.

A rain of ground debris, fragments of trees, torrents of wheat and other crops fell on the town and with it came the choking fumes of sulphur.

"Get to the station basement quick," shouted somebody. We headed for it as our nostrils were filled with the phosphorus that filled the air. Then somebody shouted wildly:-

"It's coming. It's coming. Get to the basement. Get to the basement."

We got to the steps when all at once something hit like an explosion tearing the station into flying fragments in all directions. The engine and the six coaches of the local train actually disappeared.

I had started to reach the lower steps towards the basement when the station was

1433 no more and a great wall  
of dirt earth and other de-  
bris topped with fragments of  
trees and stuff from farm fields  
seemed to rush towards us like  
a sea wave. My darkness  
had fallen on the town be-  
hind us but blazing lightning  
lit up the scene.

The wave of ground went  
into flying cloud blizzards  
and I thought it would en-  
velop us and entomb us in  
the basement but the storm  
also tore off the basement floor  
a roof roof and threatened to  
gut the basement.

I don't don't know where it  
came from but the wind  
blew a round metal wash  
tub over my head which  
some how shielded me  
from the worse of the squall.  
I was caught in an awful  
swift swirl of ground particles  
blown down into what was left  
of the basement.  
It was at this moment  
that I received serious  
injuries. Swirling clouds  
of ground was pouring in

4934  
into the basement I  
should have been killed had  
not William Schloeder seized  
me and dragged me into an  
side excavation torn up by the  
storm.

It seems as if the under world  
like wave had as against a ship  
struck broadside on. Everything  
seemed to disappear or was swept  
away, the tops of the low rising  
ground all trees villages, all  
farms and the crops and ground  
gravel, I could not describe the more  
for my lifes sake.

The station and tracks were  
gone nailed also. We stayed down  
in that lower cavity while  
all hell raged above us.  
and by holding planks on  
ourselves we escaped serious  
injury.

The engineer had tried to  
jump from his cab when he  
saw the storm coming but  
was restrained by his fire  
man. Both were swept into  
the air together with the  
locomotive. I remained in  
that hollow until the storm

4935 ceased and then went up and out. The storm was still on sight and raging on towards the northeast yet a lot of stuff was still falling.

It was still as dark as night. It could not have been nearly two minutes between the time the sky first darkened to the time the raging fury of the immeasurable squall passed on and I left the basement depression.

Of the five hundred persons in the railroad station only thirty remained alive the rest apparently having been blown to only God knows where, and only very small fragments of the station remained.

The fury of the storm of wind was unmanageable.

My friend Mr. Schloeder owes his life to the fact he fell down the steps into the basement when the black squall struck and destroyed the station. He

escaped injury. Not one of us was hurt but hereafter I rather live in a deep cave

than see such a tornado as that." 4936

William P. Schloeder referred to above also told the following story of the struggle in the basement of the railway station during the "eruption" of the funnel cloud.

The people on the local train had seen the storm heading for the contour of ground for some distance during the last of the trip and now as we came up into the open two track side station that afternoon the pillars of strange cloud formations appeared to connect with the higher and darker cloud above. Several of the passengers getting off the train to watch the strange cloud shapes.

The local train steamed up to her usual stopping place less than a quarter of a mile of the downtown of Geneva. The water of the river was quite smooth and although enormous quantities of crazily acting clouds were boiling up and there was very great far distant crashing of thunder the sky was not yet dark and the view was most excellent indeed.



4.937 The peculiar form of clouds seemed to be at some unknown distance from the very contour a little by the head of of us and over the territory beyond Gleason City. The West Sa Salle Telegraphic Company was standing near the station but this did not prove to be any screen between us and the immeasurable fury that rushed upon us afterwards with the suction as if of a thousand whirlwinds at once.

Not one of us in the station hardly escaped if a few had not succeeded to get into the basement in time. I left the station and found all of the passengers and some of the train crew who were not on duty standing in Genoa street watching the strange atmospheric show.

As it was Assumption day no one in Genoa would do any work. Some said they were suspicious of the action of the distant storm. They had never seen clouds act that way before. Evidently

4938  
It was the opinion of everybody in Genoa for the streets the river pier and rooftops were covered with spectators enjoying the majestic spectacle. This was about five minutes before the storm came and tore the grounds to pieces.

At this time of all the people were crowded everywhere enjoying the sight while my friend and I were standing on the station platform, and as it began to grow rapidly dark we heard a terrific commotion along the distant ground.

Everything far and near seemed to be crushed flat by the sound. We saw that a great long stretch of great ground seemed to burst into great snarling swirling clouds about one third the distance of the way, and hurrying most wildly towards us.

There seemed to gush out of a swift wide shroud which seemed fully three miles wide an awful mass of something black thousands of times greater in size but like the gush of smoke that dents out of a cannon while being fired

4939 at the same time the  
higher clouds were boiling into  
something that looked like frothy  
waves as if stirred up by some  
mighty power the movement far  
above their bosom 7 or less than  
a minute the storm was tearing  
away Jena struck the station  
with a frightfully loud ex-  
plosive sound and came roll-  
ing over and over above us and  
upon itself as it advanced up  
us.

I can't understand anything like  
the rolling of this cloud as I  
never saw anything like it be-  
fore. It roared forth and advanced  
like a gigantic beach comb  
of water with its strange up  
part always rolling down up  
wards and also in all direc-  
tions and with the after  
part rising into the parent  
cloud as the great mass of  
strangely convulsed shroud  
rushed at us.

Great clouds of ground  
earth and every sort of debris  
arose from the contact of such  
a powerful wind. The rising  
clouds of debris blotted out

everything from our sight. 4940  
There arose as an outcry of many  
terrified voices. Now as the appalling  
storm advanced upon us the ground  
seemed to rise up before in great clouds  
and cut off from view what was left  
of the ground contours.

At that moment the station was  
hurled and flung about like crumpled  
dust in the roaring storm and a  
great inner wide whirlpool seemed  
to pull everything up and away.

Then the terrible immeasurable  
wind struck and sent everything  
away. What was left of the station  
acted like a ship in a tidal wave  
as if keeling her over on her  
starboard side and on her beam  
ends.

Then everything seemed to disappear  
and at the moment this wind  
gammer of a storm swept on as  
I heard a more frightfully loud  
and threatening that was a sound  
of everything being swept away  
like chaff.

Even then we had not recovered  
the full force of the storm  
yet as it had not come up to  
us just now. Then when it came  
it seemed the end of the world

4940 In Jena one wall of a four story hotel was flung down started by incredible wind raging throughout the building like whirling explosions and then all the building disappeared into the air all in an instant.

I should have said that when the head station agent heard the explosive roar of the wind he leaped out of his office and ran outside.

"Mr Scott" he called to the nearest baggage man Get to the basement quick. Leave the work go for God's sake I let us all get out of here as soon as we can."

I made a rush for the basement to get out of danger.

Scott yelled to a cart man - Get to the basement, are you deaf man?"

Just then the wind blast struck us and swept him away so that he never reached the basement.

Mr Scott was running for the station companion stairway so as to get to the basement where he could secure safety when a gust of wind whirled him round

and hurled him head - 4941 long down into the basement so that he was not even injured. That strange freak action of the wind saved Mr Scott's life and neither he nor the station agent was injured by the storm.

When I ran into the basement on the west side of the two hundred foot long station my idea was to plunge under the merchandise so and so protect myself from the rush of wind, but before I got half way covered the terrific wind hurled the building sidewise. The windows were wide open and the wind came rushing in in a great force and fury. The

The wind was almost burning hot. The inrush of the wind swept me from under the merchandise and hurled me across the basement against a wall and held me very tightly against it.

The wind was so hot that I felt as if I was burning up and released by the wall flying outward I fell to the floor and then madly tore off my coat and waistcoat.

As the building was still going



4942 to piece I thought all of  
the contour was erupting away.  
As the building was disappearing  
in the wind I held fast to merch-  
andize in the basement.

The head Station Master  
was before the storm on its  
platform giving orders to the  
others to get to whatever shelter  
was nearest when the blast of wind  
overwhelmed him.

Bareheaded and dressed only in  
his summer clothes his hair was  
torn off and he was struck by  
flying splinters from head to  
foot. When whether he was  
crazed and delirious from the  
pain or whether he became so  
weak that he could not support  
himself I do not know but  
he immediately fell down the  
side steps into the basement.

Daniel Coopers jumped after  
him. He caught the Station  
keeper and tried to pull him  
away from the west side of the  
Station. Just then some big side  
of a wooden (horse) house  
fell from the shattering build-  
ing came flying through the  
air and hurled into the  
basement hitting us both,  
knocking him unconscious.

I myself thought he was 4943  
dead! Then I was surprised to hear  
him say suddenly!

"Get me back to Mr. Scott for  
God's sake get me back to the  
Station. If I've got to die I want  
to die in the station. I am willing  
to die but I must go into my  
railroad station." Then the station  
master lay back as if dead  
and it was sometime before he  
spoke or moved again. When  
he was convinced that the Station  
master will come to Daniel  
climbed out of the back base-  
ment and walked towards its  
rear.

As he reached there he saw the  
Station stewardess Miss  
Conforth all torn and bleeding  
and with her clothes hanging  
in shreds and bloody.

"My God what's the matter?"  
cried Daniel And he ran forward  
to where he had left his  
companions on the platform.

It was at this time that I  
myself made my way forward  
from where I had been thrown  
by the wind. I saw one of  
the baggage truck men a young  
fellow named Hiram lying  
outside beyond what had been



4944 the station platform,  
I found that he was dead  
his clothing and skin hung  
together hung together in  
ragged patches. The blast of  
wind had passed long ago  
but at the moment of this awful  
explosion of wind there were  
hurled through the air and  
everywhere onward and all di-  
rections many countess tons of  
ground debris, and everything  
from the ground.

Wreckage of buildings were  
falling with the rain of dirt and  
for a few seconds breathing was  
almost impossible. It was im-  
possible to see any distance,  
the roaring of the retreating  
storm the shrieks and cries  
of the dying, the rain of debris  
and building wreckage and  
the temados strong and almost  
poisonous gas every where  
made it seem to me as if  
the end of the world had  
come and all of us were  
in hell.

There was very little of  
the station remaining.

The rain of debris 4945  
debris still continued -  
Mr Scott, Daniels and I just  
looked at each other then stayed  
where we were until morning  
under shelter from the all night  
rain of the second thunderstorm.  
The next day what we seen  
after the disaster caused us to  
bring to Gleason city tokens of honor  
and profound grief.

I gave this account of what we  
saw.

"We knew after leaving Jeno  
that the disaster throughout the  
countour grounds was one that will  
shock the world, but we were  
not prepared for what we found.

Going towards Gleason city we  
saw the western city side of  
the city in shattered particles  
with no sign of life in that  
section. As we neared the river  
the wreck of twenty eight  
river ships were seen. We  
on the contour of ground found  
all the large big trees gone  
except a half dozen.  
Some were with the roots  
uppermost and all branches  
badly tumbled together as if  
woven and without a leaf or

4946 back on them also  
on some all the boughs  
were snapped off and scattered  
scattered all over the countour  
of the country and everywhere  
else. We had noticed that  
one big wooden house had  
been torn asunder like a weak  
painted board box and the wall  
boards were twisted all in one  
direction just as if one might  
twist a handful of straw or  
hay.

This seems to point to  
the fact that the sudden force  
of so much wind at the time  
of the tornado's explosive force  
did what no tornado could do  
before. I know many places  
got the wild fury of the storm  
very bad but I do think  
the countour of the ground got  
it worse of all.

Secure additional accounts  
vividly depicting the disastrous

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF CHICAGO  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
SECOND FLOOR, CITY HALL  
TELEPHONE 744-9800

MR. McCUTCHEON  
Man, 43rd Ward  
Lincoln Park West, 60614  
one, EA Bigate 7-3664



tornado outbreak up on 4947  
the contour of ground were re-  
sieved to from the La Salle  
Journal that reached St. Louis  
St. Louis August 22<sup>nd</sup> confirming  
all that had been hitherto been  
stated concerning the overwhelm-  
ing contour catastrophe.

a beautiful iron and partly brass  
brass crucifix which stood on  
the contour has been metted  
by lightning, Only the base  
of the masonry badly uprooted  
on which the crucifix stood  
and the lower part of the  
foot of the cross can be seen.

A child's pathetic  
tale.

In the city hospital at  
La Salle were eight men  
survivors of the contour disaster  
who those who were rescued  
from the wreckage of Jena.

Among them was a little  
eight and year girl mar-  
garet Sullivan Cunningham.  
I never saw such a pathetic  
figure than she presented.

4948 But she did not come  
near on the contour though  
she was found among its  
debris. The child was terribly  
mutilated and lacerated. Her  
face was disfigured. Both arms  
and both legs were fearfully  
mutilated and she had  
thick bandages around her  
bosom.

Her belly had been almost  
cut open but she lost far  
less blood than feared she  
was in great pain. Yet she  
fortunately did not lose  
her parents.

"I lived at 340 Center  
Street Johnston town with mam-  
ma and papa" little Margaret  
said. "On the afternoon of  
the awful cyclone we were  
at afternoon supper, when  
something knocked us off  
our seats. Then the building  
seemed to explode away  
wind caught me and carried  
and threw me mostly  
roughly to where I was found  
as the rescuers at first

thought I was dead) 4949.  
I don't want to die, I hope I  
am not going to die but

tell my mamma I here,  
Outside of her parents  
the only friend the child  
has is her nurse Margaret  
Mass-hall, who is a very, very  
capable woman. She does not  
know what to do with poor  
little Margaret as her (parents)  
parents can't get to her yet  
because of the destruction of  
all communications.

The doctors say it will  
be a very long time be-  
fore the little girl will  
recover because of the long  
abdominal wound. The nurse  
who so bravely tried to  
protect her little charge  
was also very badly injured.  
There are terrifying sights  
in the county hospital -  
at La Salle. Several  
men were almost literally  
shredded to pieces but were

4950 still during the whole  
side of the face of one man  
is gone but his sight is  
still preserved. They are John  
Manley Evans and John C  
O'hara who were both engineers  
and assistant on the ill fated  
schoolhouse of Jena to where  
little Margaret was blown from  
Johnston town.

Despite their terrible injuries  
with their bodies also scarred  
and mutilated by their treatment  
from the fierce wind they  
bore their suffering bravely.

However they will always  
have the proud record of  
having saved little Margaret  
Cunningham.

This contour of ground  
was considered one of the  
most beautiful territories in  
the world a Illinois paradise.

The annihilation of these  
important grounds the principal  
center of river commerce in  
this part of Illinois is  
very unique in one particular  
so far as verifiable history is

concerned. It cannot be 4951  
pronounced as from other natural  
cause yet it was a fierce overstrong  
whirlwind seemingly caused by much  
unnatural sources. The number  
of victims here is unknown.

What renders the tragedy on  
these grounds is the appalling  
quickness with which the work of  
destruction was completed and made  
sure of.

Suddenly before quarter to four  
on the afternoon of Sunday August  
15 a whirlwind of swirling  
crushing force enveloped the grounds  
and the river harbor and in  
less than two minutes all was  
over.

We repeat that so far as  
history accepted as authentic is  
concerned there is no record  
of a tornado catastrophe equally  
sudden and decisive. The destruction  
that had been worked on the  
contour was something to make  
the heart sick.

Science has begun a  
systematic and persistent assault  
upon the "war batteries of the Tornado."



Helpless to check  
4952 their destructive wild  
fury she has none the less  
sent here wise men from  
our schools armed with every  
method and exact methods  
and with delicate instruments  
and they have assumed the  
tasks of observing and record-  
ing what ever may be gathered  
for the stock of human know-  
ledge.

A most singular  
unbelievable phenomenon.  
The opening cloud  
belly with irresistible  
honor.

Among these eminent scientist  
is Professor Snodgrass of  
the University of Front Royal  
Virginia. "To my mind he  
said! "The most interesting  
point about this tornado  
horror is the fact of the  
explosion of the child clouds

belly. I believe 4953  
it was this. The protruding  
tongue turning into the twister  
did not go all the way down  
to the ground from its source  
but pierced first through the  
chest, and with immeasurable  
force forced its way through  
the belly of the child formation  
of cloud.

What ever was the cause  
this was the source of all  
annihilation.

The funnel that shot from  
the "child's" belly in an action  
like a blow pipe effect was  
actually shot in the direction  
of that of woodland region  
and the vessels in the river  
roadstead along side of it.

The intense wild fire and  
immeasurable force of the  
blow pipe cut a patch through  
the full length of the  
woods and there is a very well  
defined line of total demar-  
cation between the section  
it so savagely tore its  
way through.

4954 yet the most unusual point about this freakiest formed cyclone is the fact that the awful winter ex-ploding out of the child cloud belly in a down to the woods direction and afterwards took a horizontal onward direction and while it is too early yet to attempt a definite explanation of this singular phenomenon

I am inclined to believe that the funnel tore through it to a very great length and following the law of gravitation descended with great velocity a velocity comparable perhaps with the swiftness of its onrush especially when it fell upon the end section of the woods and then tore on its way through with immeasurable fury.

Here it encountered the main woods in its progress and was accordingly deflected in a horizontal direction. Then good ly to that portion of the woods.

Likewise then what? 4955 after the withering fury the woods the horror of Johnston town devastation, the knockout blow at Gleason City then the ill fated contour of grounds. It was actually equal to a portent of universal destruction blazed before a terrified country and world.

It was the actual real beginning of the crash and most violent suction wind pull of the greatest tornado disaster of the age bursting with the most appalling immeasurable wind pull through these grounds. All Illinois was joyful in the beauties of late summer time, prosperity and progress were reigning.

Suddenly out of that cloud belly came the shock of the most violent tornado ever on record the destruction of Johnston town Gleason, Jena and Ground Contour villages the disappearance of most

4956 of the people and  
all on the contour of grounds,  
This terrible tornado dis-  
aster which overwhelmed and  
wiped out six miles length  
of the ground contour among  
the most peaceful and beau-  
tiful landscapes in the  
world, and even here destroyed  
an unknown number of lives  
in almost an instant and  
injure many more badly  
and painfully had about it  
a certain unique features that  
justify special attention bey-  
ond all other such strong  
and mighty wind cataclysm  
of nature. It had far more wallop  
than even a powerful  
atomic bomb.  
However stupendous and  
shocking the many different  
calastrophes of the past may  
be none of them can com-  
pare to this storm. It was  
a wind convulsion of nature  
tremendous beyond all man  
conception, immeasurable beyond  
measure, almost at our very  
doors. It happened however

4957  
it did come at a time  
of the printing press and  
of the newspapers and books  
had been invented also  
telegraph and telephone but there  
were now of no avail for  
nothing for weeks and weeks  
could depict the truth or the very  
scenes of the destruction itself  
because of the wiping out of all  
communications.

Now on August 15th 1913  
The feast of the Assumption of  
Lady (Mother of God) comes a  
sweeping cloud of devastating  
horror inconceivably tremendous  
almost as I say again at our  
door, with all these invented  
agencies of modern progress  
at hand for recording and  
preserving every graphic detail  
and this heretic harudian  
wipes them out.

Even the news of the  
tornado and the slaughter it  
had wrought ~~as far as~~ had as  
far as it had traveled could  
not even be flashed as  
far as St Louis South.

4958 When the first news  
be obtained and that was  
(ario) all people there wanted  
to know all the whole truth  
of what had happened es-  
pecially to the most im-  
portant spot of all, the  
contour of the grounds.

So near to us was the  
great storm, so tremendous  
its effects so widespread  
the simultaneous reports  
of other things the twister did  
and the effect of its strange  
seismic disturbance that  
they did not ignore them,  
nor dare to.

What part of the country  
would be the next to be  
stricken? Was this the  
beginning of a series of  
calamities all over the  
country? What were the  
real causes of such catas-  
trophs of nature and  
could they be far off,  
could this be the cause.  
I remember the long heat-  
ing steam pipes on the sides

our schoolroom when? 4,959  
was a boy. Set the steam  
into those cold pipes and you  
have thought the carnage  
at the battle of Gettysburg  
was going on in the school  
room.

Was there the same kind  
of conflict between the cool  
and hot monster full of air  
in the atmosphere, but where  
the cool air won. Did the  
cool air descend too suddenly  
and force the warm air up  
just as swiftly as to cause  
the tremendous whirlwind to  
form.

I know there is a furious  
conflict between cold and hot  
air in those pipes when the  
steam is on, and the awful  
dangling noise stops when the  
hot air wins. But it does  
not win in the atmosphere  
but is forced up. So does  
this cause the atomic twisters.  
These were the natural  
questions rising in every  
mind.



4960 Of course the devastation  
of Johnston town the Asylum  
the convent was really a spect-  
acle of unspeakable horror which  
never can be obliterated from  
the memory of those who saw  
it but it is believed the actual  
obliteration of the ground con-  
tours could have been much  
worse because of its undoc-  
umented exposure.

All those who had made  
desperate efforts to hasten there  
to the relief of the wounded  
and suffering had a intolerable  
time to reach there because  
of the wiping out of all  
rail and road communications  
or obliteration of all telegraph  
telephone and other ~~electrical~~  
wiring.

The very country was aroused  
to an outpouring of the  
greatest sympathy never before  
exceeded. Ships were quickly  
gathered, money food clothing  
and means of healing  
to hasten to the stricken  
Northern Illinois for the quick

salvation salvation of those 4961  
who survived but all this was  
blocked by the destruction of  
all communications, "Sweetie Pie"  
saw to this accomplishment.  
This too in one way made  
her the worse of all tornadoes,  
no tornado ever did this before  
anywhere.

The one bright spot in the  
whole terrible picture was placed  
there by the unexampled demon-  
stration of universal human  
sympathy the brotherhood of  
man and that touch of nature  
which makes the whole world  
kin when suffering assailed this  
region and "Sweetie Pie"  
would block and defeat every  
thing.

I will have to say that it is  
in response to certain queries  
and to relate the whole story  
in a long description of this  
awful wild wind convulsion  
that this had been written  
in so long a detail and  
still be long ending in the  
investigation of its far reaching noise

4963 Therefore the purpose of  
this present volume  
has been to combine in  
lengthy and proper proportion  
the very features which should  
give it permanent value for  
thrilling reading and reference  
no less than immediate value  
for its even lengthy  
value for its story of the  
Chesterbourn horror.

Only one thing is mistaken,  
The great wheatfield fire should  
have been the last in this  
book.

Yet with that in view this  
chapterless story likewise is  
descriptive of this inexorable  
disaster of August 15 from  
Johnstontown to Janesville and  
across the rest of the country,  
and which were followed by  
a scientific explanation of  
the cause of the formation  
of this uncommon twister,  
a long unusual story relating  
the details of the most  
interesting historic disaster  
of August 15 1913 and a  
long and complete and

4964  
~~authentic~~ authentic  
account historical and descrip-  
tive of the whole course of the  
inexorable shandon at these places  
in which this latest disturbance  
occured and in which our own  
American interests are so rapidly  
advancing.

This latter detail is a matter  
to be emphasized so it is  
hope further lengthy description  
will not bore who ever reads  
this. After what is to further  
described here of the horror will  
be immediately followed by  
the detail of the visit of the  
singing children who were not  
in Chesterbourn at the time  
of the disaster, and then the  
trial of the 'Gleason Orphanage'  
superintendent. The outcome of  
the trial will only be  
told then.

Strange wild atmospheric  
conditions and unusual actions on  
the part of the river were  
noticed from August 13th  
to before the coming of the

4965 first big thunderstorm  
by the inhabitants of the  
territory and it was feared  
that some terrible calamity  
was pending. The contour of grounds  
has two interesting claims to  
distinction in this it is said one  
of the mayors of Chicago was  
born of a farm family there  
and ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> passed his child-  
hood there.

It is said there is a statue  
there of him in Chicago's  
public library. The second  
distinction it has was a beautiful  
lake, now pulled away by  
the storm.

It was just before twenty  
to five on the afternoon of  
August 15 that the storm burst  
its bounds and bore unbe-  
livable destruction to the  
ill fated grounds and its  
farm woods and town  
and its beautiful lake.

Here as else where within  
a minute and forty five  
seconds most of the six  
mile stretch of ground had

4966  
disappeared in a whirling  
hour vomited from the belly  
of the "strangling child cloud".  
The contour of grounds was  
no more. These descriptions  
will go on record as the  
most most astounding in the  
history of all tornado catas-  
trophes.

The manner of the annihilation  
of these horrors and the wiping  
out of this Illinois paradise  
is unique indeed in the full  
history of the world. Omaha  
was not a parallel for it only  
was swept on the west side  
but where the contour of  
grounds once was there is  
not a bed of ground  
now. These grounds are  
gone, from the earth and  
totally.

And that Jenn town and  
the contour were wiped  
out in an instant was  
probably due to the first  
onrush of the storm after  
bouncing off Western Gleason.

and by no means any tornado was



4969 with all the marginal the alter is was in half vertically left of the wall precipitously or toward the center object ruin. Where had been before obliterated.

But some building that had been some increased in a flung from other houses.

Of its immediate strong slanting framework and it too had disappeared of the remaining walls were part some were covered debris from other many changes place in its position grounds and of ing streets.

The famous air terraces were ruin only two then remaining magnitude of this "Sweet's R."

4967 from its western center curve though ever there the direction of the landscape had something to do with it. In this way one can understand how the tornado missed the main section of Gleason city which escaped annihilation, for it was out of its pathway.

Strange indeed it must always seem to this country and the world that those who live in a territory that has the reputation of Tornado or Eyclone Alley should not heed the muttered warnings of the disturbed atmosphere between the two thunderstorms and its strange premonitory symptoms of a coming horror by the cloud in the form of a strangling child and the blowing out of the belly part of the cloud which as said again was the source of the annihilation.

But more than half 'o 4968 century had passed and the weather had yet never threatened any serious outbreak, except severe thunderstorm of summer and early fall and fall rains and winter cold waves and sometimes very severe blizzard and freezing rains.

But these are not wind-jammers that blow all to Hell.

These contours of grounds with its wide long but not at all slopes green and most beautiful which were as familiar to many tourists and others as the very places at their very doors, yards its beautiful shady trees and its beautiful lake and bathing pools furnishing them and tourists and pleasure ground, for their recreation.

And so as familiar, breeds contempt of the greatest dangers until they are thought no dangers at all the coming of no any Tornadoes was



4969 with all  
The marginal  
the altar is  
in half vertically  
left of the wall  
precipitously on  
toward the center  
abject ruin. Where  
had been before  
bles existed.

But some  
building that  
had been some  
increased in  
flung from other  
houses.

Of its immediate  
strong slanting  
framework and  
it too had  
of the remaining  
walls were part  
some were covered  
debris from other  
many changes  
place in its  
grounds and of  
ing streets.

The famous  
an terrace was  
run only two  
them remaining  
magnitude of the  
this streets

4968 not feared except as  
the remotest of dangers  
hardly enough to cast a  
cloud over the contour re  
gional grounds. The first that  
was known at Gleason City  
of the disaster at the grounds  
and of the Gleason (Asylum?)  
Asylum was at 4:35 P.M. at  
that hour there suddenly  
spread over the city of Gleason  
a thick strangely formed  
storm cloud which came from  
the direction of Johnstontown.

on southwest.

The cloud swept over  
the city with terrifying  
swiftness turning bright  
daylight into the darkness  
of night with hardly  
a moments warning.

From this cloud came  
lightning as bright as day  
followed by thunderbolts  
that seemed to split the  
earth, and also as witnesses  
said hailstones as big  
as baseballs pouring on  
the city to cover like  
snow the streets and  
throwing the population.

4970  
4970  
into the wildest panic.  
Toward the far west of the  
city there was an appalling  
(commotion) commotion of sound, a  
great wind swept down the  
river and ships at the river  
wharves were flung crashing  
against each other with great  
force or were absolutely blown  
away.

Everybody now knew  
what had happened, a tornado  
had struck somewhere with  
the most appalling results.  
Throughout the streets of Gleason  
city and along the river front  
people ran hither and thither  
in wild panic on all sides.  
There was but one cry:

"It's a tornado. It's a tornado. It  
is a tornado."

As quickly as possible in  
the confusion the Mayor of  
Gleason, and city authorities  
realizing what need there  
was began to organize

organize some system  
for carrying help to those  
known to be in dire  
distress. The supply train

4969 with all

The marginal  
the altar is w  
on half vertically  
left of the wa  
precipitously on  
toward the cent  
abject ruin. When  
had been before  
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some were co  
debris from oth  
many changes  
place in its p  
grounds and of  
ing streets.

The famous  
air terraces w  
ruin only two  
them remaining  
magnitude of t  
this "Sweet's R

4972

~~4672~~ which had been side-  
tracked became instantly  
alive with activity. It was  
made ready for a trip to  
the Gleason ground corridor  
territory as quickly as possible  
and started away at full speed  
in the direction of the contour  
where there had been a  
great column of something strange  
and awful noise.

There were several auto  
trucks that had arrived at the  
city that same afternoon and  
they made instant preparation  
to go there. Tools and  
provisions were hurried aboard  
of them and they started  
away in the wake of the  
supply train.

They had not been  
gone over two hours when  
they returned bringing back  
the tidings that the grounds  
was utterly destroyed, the  
Gleason Asylum a thing of  
the past, and that the  
entire river shore from  
Jena town as far as  
could be seen was no  
more and that it was  
impossible to reach

4973 ~~4673~~

reach any point on account  
of the intense blockage of ground  
wreckage. At one place all  
sorts of debris fell from the  
sky in such quantities about  
the trucks and everywhere  
else that the trucks seemed to  
be loaded with it.

Along the river shore the  
scene was most appalling. It  
looked as though all that part  
of the landscape had been altered  
by a severe earthquake. The  
supply train got back to Gleason  
city many hours after the  
motor trucks which had  
followed in the effort to reach  
the scene of the disaster.

On board the supply train  
were thirty survivors who were  
picked up near what had been  
Jena. All of them were most  
frightfully injured and ten of  
them died on board the train  
before it reached Gleason  
city. The supply train  
played a large part from  
the moment of the disaster.

4974 Fortunately having  
steam up there was no  
time lost starting for the  
nearly territory where it was  
evident that the great  
disaster had occurred. Through-  
out the next day the debris  
blockage in the vicinity  
of the territory was so in-  
tense that it was totally  
impossible to approach  
the territory during the early  
part of the day.

As evening approached  
the supply train after a  
heroic battle with the  
ground debris of all kinds  
succeeded in making a  
desperate run toward  
the territory getting through  
close enough to enable  
it to pick up all the  
thirty survivors of the  
disaster.

The Santa Fe Social  
train a mail of the  
train called at the Canton  
at ten o'clock August 15th  
standing on a siding south

impossible to reach

4975  
of it sounding its whistle and  
the men of one of the coaches  
sending up rockets. She re-  
ceived no answer. The very  
whole river front seemed wiped  
out for miles. The Engineer  
sent some men towards there  
but they could not get through  
because of ground debris.

Not a living soul appeared  
after the train had waited  
two hours. Debris still com-  
ing down from the skies fell  
all over the train. All attempts  
to get to the Canton or to  
gleason were barred by a very  
conglomeration of debris. The next  
morning day  
light showed the stretch of  
ground being almost no more  
therefore it was certain that  
the whole contour of ground  
and neighboring country for  
miles was utterly destroyed  
and it was feared here that  
few if any of the inhabitants  
escaped.



4977 How a great deal of Johnston-  
town being nearer the awful  
belly burst itself escaped or  
could have escaped more than  
it did, was explained by the  
fact that Johnston town was too  
far back and on the <sup>south</sup> ~~north~~  
side of the river than the  
northern part and that it  
was separated from the main  
path of the storm by an  
irregular sort of road.

It is supposed that the  
funnel from the protruding  
tongue did not come straight  
down to the ground but  
forced itself first into the  
chest of the child cloud  
and burst its way from  
some weaker point on the  
lower front which was  
supposed to be the belly,  
which was torn out by  
the force of the explosive  
funnel and that it shot  
out its appalling charge  
of immeasurable wind  
far not forward or

skyward but slanting 4978  
downward like an enormous  
column aimed first at the  
woodland then to bear at Johnston-  
town and all the river and  
territory in its path. Then at  
Gleason and the Condors and the  
Aphamge.

It was from some of the child  
and other survivors that the  
alarm felt in the city of Gleason  
for a few days prior to the disaster  
at the Gleason Asylum was learned.  
Furthermore the Superintendent  
of the Gleason Asylum is still  
being blamed for the loss of  
the lives of the children there  
because of his overestimated faith  
of the contour of the grounds and  
the indignation against him still  
runs high.

Again it is said it is still  
remembered that while "Sweetie  
Pie" was threatening and giving  
warning of the disaster it was  
about to work the Orphan Asylum  
had head believing the ground  
contour would block the funnel  
or turn it off its course refused to



4979 permit any general ex-  
odus from the Asylum  
refuge beneath the building.  
Only the day before  
the storm disaster a full  
commission of scientists pre-  
sided over by the Superintendent  
of the Orphanage and  
appointed by him assembled  
in the Asylum for the  
purpose of studying the  
strange phenomenon of the  
coming of the tornado  
disturbance.

It was agreed that the  
relative position of the ground  
and the situation of the  
Orphanage debouching on the  
shore of the river permit-  
ted them to affirm the  
security of the Orphanage  
from any terrific uncom-  
mon storm.

Yet he survived on  
surviving his ser-  
ious injuries, but his

4980 2  
wife and whole family  
perished. We know that he is  
an awful blow and sorrow to  
him. But that won't prevent  
him from facing court pro-  
ceedings when the time comes.  
His wife had been found  
alive, but she afterwards died.  
She was conscious in the Hospital  
at So. Halle for a time while the  
physicians tried to save her.  
She could relate only few details  
of her experiences. She said that on the day of  
the terrible disaster some awful  
big cloud came and enveloped the  
Asylum like an enormous white  
explosion and she thereupon was  
flung away somewhere she knew not  
where and thereupon fainted.  
When she recovered her senses  
a few hours later she was admitted  
to a ward of some buildings in  
storm ripped So. Halle and horribly  
injured and glancing around she  
saw two members of her family  
still alive.  
They had been blown away like  
she was. They died before help  
could reach them. She died two days  
later.  
In coming towards the Orphanage  
it moved with a rapidity that  
made it impossible for anything  
to withstand it. Where the force  
of the cyclone was greatest the  
strong Orphanage building must  
have first been leveled and the  
first board and then swept all  
away with everything in its  
way of the border of grounds  
and was a wretched sight.

491 4981

49

the tremendous force of this avalanche of wind had swept all bare before it. That the Orphange was doomed it was known, but all were prevented from seeing the destruction because of the intense darkness that came with the awful storm.

If all the navies in the world were in titanic combat where the Orphange was with all their guns firing at one time it could make the noise the shroud made when it enveloped the Orphange and all its territory.

"A glimpse of hell" was the graphic expression by which John Michael Freeman, Mayor of Jono, who though severely injured survived the cyclonic horror spoke of the scene in Jono river harbor when the "Sweetie Pie" probably tore the grounds skyward and destroyed the hapless craft tugging at their anchor chain in the river harbor and on the river.

The river rocked in sympathy with the trembling earth caused by the storm's concussion and death was upon the face of the waters.

The whirlwind of invincible force and fury that tore on over the land and then enveloped the Gleason Orphange Orphange and swept the very road clear of every mate and living thing was one great wheel like ship which released from her moorings by the injured survivors among her crew was pushed there

three miles down the river 4982 and then released by the storm crawled pitifully away with dismantled rigging, masts, her smokestack and shredded sheets, an unrecognizable hulk, covered with mud and ground debris from the bottom and with dead men lying where they fell among all the ground and other debris on her deck.

118 vessels were riding at anchor in the river harbor when the infernal fury of the tornado mad wild wrath wrapped their shrouds in the fiercest fury of the most strongest storm that ever blew.

As if in terror of that withering blast the shroud around the storm tried to pull itself loose. For more than five miles it widened out around the vortex of the gigantic whirlpool of air formed from the protruding tongue of that strangling "Child."

In another moment the mighty big bowel rushed on to make its wheel wheel made shroud go with it and in another moment the center of the shroud turned in wrath and rage and mingled with its ruthless tormentor. A fearful more was widened opened

4983 shroud lost contrall  
of itself and a fearful wind,  
no tidal wave or avalanche  
could outmatch came sweep-  
ing towards land river and  
Orphan home, lifted the fleeing  
craft high into the air and  
engulfed them all - save one  
poor wounded thing that  
struggled through the hellish  
fury to bear the frightful  
tidings to the neighbouring towns  
and cities.

When the "Sweetie Pie" had  
passed on its way and spent its  
fury the waters of the wide  
Illinois river were thick with  
the wreckage of shore and  
river harbor and in the midst  
of it all the sailors from  
the sunken and wind shattered  
ships and terror stricken  
human beings from the wind  
torn shores were struggling  
desperately for life,  
and as they fought, and  
choked and fainted and sank  
the heavy hail of debris  
and ground particles and yellow  
sulphurous fumes for the awful  
storm hastened, the merciful  
end.

Few there were that came 4984  
out of that awful baptism of whirl-  
winds fury alive. Those few managed  
to swim ashore and save themselves,  
through floating trunks of trees,  
and the mass of debris which filled  
the water of the river harbor.

An inhabitant near the  
woods at Johnston town seven miles  
southwest of Gleason city who was  
watching the strange child  
cloud formation at the time of the  
beginning of the catastrophe said  
that there thirteen lightning flashes  
followed by very loud thunder  
before the belly of the cloud  
burst.

He said that all about him  
when the clouds belly burst there  
was a terrific suction of air which  
seemed to be dragging him  
irresistibly towards the fallen  
funnel in spite of all his  
resistance.

He thought the entire outburst  
that did all the work of havoc  
did not last more than  
a minute and thirty seconds  
though it took twenty minutes  
to tear through the length of  
the woods from its starting point.

4985 Then there was complete darkness from then until morning caused by the dense clouds. The entire country all that course of the storm was turned into a chaotic waste.

All the trees were either torn up by the roots and carried away or snapped off to the level with the ground," another said.

I was near the contour of ground when there was an awful approaching roar and quickly coming darkness and something seemed to give vent to an ugly mass of dark shroud which spread over the entire territory and environs suddenly broke into a solid mass of the most horribly strong wind ever known before.

The horrid shroud traveling with hurricane speed also spread over the river harbor enveloping all shipping in a perfect

mashion of hell's wildest 4986 fury, snapping the spars of ships flinging them about like toys and unring them out."

From the Irish bark in the river harbor called the Shannon several men were saved among them John Peter Cunningham of Moline Ill.

Although on deck and unprotected when the ship was treated like a toy in a child's angry hand by the wind he was little injured. Cunningham said there was first with the coming of sudden darkness an awful noise as from the howling of countless number of dogs at one time and as loud as thunder and then right away a cyclone of the fiercest wind ever experienced but such was the power of the wind that not even the biggest ships escaped from being flung about and here and there.

The cyclone tore the masts out of the ships escaping that gale blew others out of the water into the shore here and there, and sunk some of them. Soon afterwards came a wind much stronger



4/1/77 than any one could ever  
have expected. That cloud?  
continued "Cunningham" was much  
bigger it seemed than any I  
ever saw in my whole life.  
The cloud absolutely uprooted  
the contour of ground. It came  
and went in a little more  
than thirty seconds.

Some men from the  
sinking ships got to the river  
shore and disappeared into the  
darkness.

Yet a strange thing happened  
to us. When the storm tossed  
our ship around it at passing  
when though struck in ships  
at the end of and threw it  
over on its beam ends and  
long away the ship upside down  
house with us inside of  
it.

The long wide house rolled  
over and over in the river  
from the violence of the squall  
nearly drowning the lives of  
us inside. Finally when it  
became stationary we managed  
managed to climb on  
top of the battered house  
which with the wind stopping  
and ceased rolling and  
somewhat got to shore. We  
did not float down the river.

The river road lead 4988  
alongside the Contour presented a  
most forlorn appearance. Usually  
full of river excursion ships  
and throughout passenger craft  
it was littered with severely  
battered wrecks. The wreck of  
the big two sided wheeled  
pleasure ship is only a shattered  
hulk, the paddle wheels and  
decks gone.

Complete destruction of Jona  
had fallen upon her. The  
wreckage what was left had been  
swept down the long gentle  
slope all the way and the  
uprooting and twisting and breaking  
breaking of the few trees  
left behind was such as no  
ordinary tornado had ever done.

Strangely all the trees were  
all lying bent towards the  
river.

What astonished the party  
of rescuers was the very few  
bodies found. Jack with sur-  
vivors of the Contour disaster  
confirmed the awful suddenness of  
the disaster. An enormous  
quantity of sections never seen  
in a tornado before produced  
an enormous speed of wind  
producing the greatest and fiercest

1988 atmospheric pressure never known in the worst tornado ever before which overwhelmed and carried all before it.

The roads to the contour were almost impassable even to any one on foot. It or they are covered with the split and shattered trunks of what is left of the trees and general ground wreckage hurled from the tops of the hillsides, and wheat and grain strewn here and there were deep.

The entire hillsides look dangerous. It appears as though some of them might collapse. From a careful inspection of a dead ~~horse~~ horse and rider it was really positive that their limbs became rigid the moment they landed, their position showing they had been blown there from somewhere.

The man's right leg was in the air as though it had become stiff while he was in the act of being flung down.

There was another corpse

4989 485  
under the horse showing only a portion of one arm. A large bronze statue of the virgin with a crown on its head on one of rising contour grounds was hurled 20,000 yards distant from its base. Its pedestal could not be found. The statue was found standing on its heel but was not at all damaged.

This together with the fact that the few remaining huge trees with ten foot circumferences were torn up by their roots and flung every which way with some of the biggest laid flat not one being left standing and all their branches whipped to pieces or tangled tightly among each other ~~shows~~ and other indications show that the disaster must have had wind velocity worse than twelve other storms put together in one.

The St. Michael's Church in Jena was down except one tower, and of the big movie theater not even a wall remained standing.

4990 A visit to the site  
what was left of  
St. Michael's Church showed  
a portion of the tower still  
standing. The large three bells  
lay outside of the ruins thrown  
here and there.

All of the altar had been  
destroyed but the golden chal-  
ices were still there undamaged.

In one large chalice was  
seen the Host still there  
undisturbed. Also a small and  
still larger chalice was on  
were full of the Sacred  
wafers not one of which not  
one was disturbed.

"A man who saw the fatal  
shroud from the deck of the  
St. Louis wood laden barge  
called the New Orleans and  
who escaped death after being  
sent overboard from the ship  
like an arrow from a bow,  
by fastening himself to  
the bowsprit of the vessel  
which whirled around in  
the water by the force of  
the wind told something  
of the story of the storm's  
unmerciful fury in brief  
intervals.

The man was nearly

insane at times from his  
sufferings. He was at work on  
the deck of the huge bark  
or barge at 4:30, on the late  
afternoon of the immeasurable  
cataclysm of the squall.

"I heard first an approaching  
increasing roar like countless  
numbers of dogs screaming  
and roaring louder than any  
thunder I've ever heard that  
rent the air and sky and  
made the mast of the  
barge and the lumber on the  
deck to quiver.

The long ship shivered  
and quaked its full length  
as though she were alive  
and the lumber on the upper-  
most piles acted as if it  
would just jump off, as  
tightly chained as it was.

Though I could not describe  
the howling noise, an awful  
deafening humming, round  
high up in the sky, left  
me senseless for an  
instant. It was growing  
awfully dark. When I  
stood up from the very  
noise the ship was careening

4992 from side to side.  
The whole sky grew  
very black.  
There was a great on-  
rush of black shroud and  
while I'm telling you it  
reached the ground contour  
and us. Our long barge  
was only a few fathoms  
from shore and at Genoa near  
us I could see people  
rushing about.

Hundreds had ran out of  
their houses at the first  
awful roar. Most of them  
were kneeling in the  
streets.

It only seemed an instant  
before something awful  
was sweeping into the  
river harbor but it now  
was so dark I could not  
see what it was. Yet I  
knew Genoa with a mere ill  
its houses all the people  
praying and running about  
in the streets all every-  
thing had been swept  
away by the inner part  
of the shroud.

A tornado I knew  
it was. The storm

4993  
reached the river harbor  
it missed the shore but  
got our barge turning it  
around like a merry-go-round,  
I don't remember any more of  
it.

It is supposed that too much  
chilly air rushing into a warm  
area produced an immeasurable  
atmospheric pressure, a few  
trunks of trees still standing  
showed that the irresistible sur-  
rush of wind passed harm-  
lessly by twenty yards from  
Genoa. The houses were all  
wiped out in that place on  
the Club estate a few buildings  
not in the storm path  
were untouched.

The body of an old man  
was found beside a shattered  
upside carriage to which a  
pair of dead horses with  
their hairy skin torn  
in shreds were harnessed.

The old man was still  
holding the reins in his  
hands as though about to  
get into the carriage when  
stricken down. He was  
naked. A naked boy lay



4994 lay across him dead. The features of both showed horror and terror. Inside the chambers of a wooden house and behind a dining room door was the body of a ten year old girl. Her hair was tangled into a tight knot on her head and terror was stamped upon her features. In the neighborhood of Jena a country telegraph office was ripped apart and its debris scattered and the instruments were found hurled a distance of 1,800 yards. The metal of the instruments were badly twisted out of shape and could not be recognized or even replaced.

There was talk of really abandoning the site altogether and placing a strong guard of soldiers around the contour of ground on the land, and a river naval guard on the river harbor to make sure it could not be approached by an spectator or curious sight

sees.

That Chesterbourn to 4995-  
3 am well might never be rebuilt became probable. (they never were) The appearance of the contour was changed. Parmer have been filled with all sorts of debris. The desolation is indescribable and on a near view of the contour I found it much more ghastly than ever was reported.

Acting Governor Hermer and the other insular authorities and a committee of doctors of Jena perished in the disaster. The cyclonic fury of the storm is shown by the uprooting of the biggest running trees some of which are turned upside down. In Jena all the lamp and electric light posts are torn up badly. I saw the storm head for the contour. Each minute the sky darkened.

In an instant there was a crash in the sky back of which it seemed as though scores of thunderbolts had been forged into ones.

4996 As it died away there came a sound on the far distance that to me was far beyond comprehension, I was southeast of the territory.

I with many others watched the progressive storm the grandest and most awe inspiring sight ever visited by an man and it was us.

There was an immense out of column from a large moving shroud of something unusual that reached in a long slant into the cloud above.

About it was a funnel shaped mass of debris that could not be penetrated by the eye.

I now that came the craziest pandemonium of sound ever heard, and also some sort of buzzing a very sinister buzzing could be heard amid the roar of the storm.

Terrible as the storm was

4997 at first sight it was mild in comparison with that when beginning when it came closer, meanwhile I know the people in town was in a state of panic and justly the time was one of terror as they had to no shelter to flee to. The very earth seemed to have lost its foundation.

On towards Glenora rushed a wild wind of death.

The culmination came a few minutes when the storm came like an explosion so terrible that walls in the city of Glenora were shaken down and the inhabitants fled into the open streets.

It is said that the fury of its explosive force was much greater than that which accompanied the storm which devastated the western section of the city of Glenora.

4998 An awfully thick cloud lit up by flashes of lightning spread overhead. The people of Gleason City knowing what had happened at its western part at once became panic stricken and in scant attire rushed most excitedly through the streets of the town.

Stones from the contour of ground and trunks of trees everything almost like a shower from a volcanic eruption fell in the street thrum forth by the passing atmospheric maelstrom. Even parts of building walls brick or wooden came down and big splashes of dirty water and mud.

Many of the inhabitants would have wanted to embark in the vessels in the river harbor and it was with difficulty that they were eventually assured that that part of

the river was in its path. 4999

The storm was now worse when it was reaching there, and great boulders were being scattered about every where, and the aspect of the country in its path were being changed.

More heavier clouds than ever covered the sky. When the heavens were filled with lightning as was frequently happening it could be seen that the storm was heading for the enormous Gleason Orphanage.

Everything far around its path was lashed to a fury beyond measure indicating that the same forces that caused the twisters bee-line course were working tremendous changes in the vortex of the storm. Words are absolutely inadequate to describe the actual and fierce conditions.

Mud and water sucked up from the lakes & water was expected at any moment. The fury of



500  
5000 the hurster was getting  
more violent on the  
extreme. Colossal columns of concrete ground matter were hurled in all directions from the storm which high swirling clouds above rained huge boulders many feet in diameter on Gleason city and the country near it from an enormous elevation above and with the most fearful velocity.

The terrible shower advanced until it came within reach of Genoa town. The spectacle was most appalling and beyond any description.

Some people reported that the entire harbor was actually running with wind. The whole population of Gleason was much more in a frenzy of panic during which soldiers, police, men and women rushed through the streets while overhead the upper tornado cloud rained down stones, ice, ground and other debris. The awful shower

5000  
was in constant severe convulsions. When the terrible storm had passed all evidence pointed to the passage of an immeasurable blast of furious wind traveling at enormous speed and with incalculable force.

No land tornado had ever did a thing like this before.

As an extra precaution during the passage of the storm the mayor ordered the electric street and other lights extinguished in the city for fear of attracting the electric fire from the tornado.

As the storm headed for the Gleason Asylum fresh terrors continually shook the nervous population of Gleason of the sorely tried city. The panic had not subsided and the multitude of semi-crazed citizens were still rushing up and down the streets and along the harbor in a useless lookout for vessels to bear them away for the distant scene of all devastation and death where the noise swelled to the northeast. It seemed as if the very atmosphere was split apart in twain and with



5001 and with a mighty  
and most indescribable  
near an enormous whirl-  
wind seemed to rip up the  
sky. The effect of this new  
evidence that this territory  
will be rendered  
unfit for habitation from  
now on for good for people  
weak with constant strain  
and mentally unbalanced  
for the time being was  
extraordinary.

Many it appeared to drive  
completely insane and one  
man while in this condit-  
ion precipitated himself  
into the river water directly  
into the path of the awful  
storm. The unfortunate  
creature was taken up by  
the storm before he  
could be saved.

Other miserable beings  
also threw themselves  
into the river while still  
others wandered about in  
utter distraction muttering  
an moaning in a heart  
breaking monotone.

According to my  
opinion a new section  
of the storm when  
within six hundred yards

4002  
seemed to pull up and scatter  
a large cone of ground debris  
three thousand feet high and  
the force of the storm appeared to  
be forming a breach in a  
part of the ground contour  
nine hundred feet long  
It was being formed on the  
north side of the contour and  
it was feared would completely  
overwhelm the fleeing people  
of Grand Grandon south of the  
storm by the very far flung  
debris.

The pessimistic conclusion  
of the of those watching the  
progress of the storm as much  
as the increasing darkness  
would permit increased the  
pressure brought to bear  
on Jennings Berthram to  
in order to induce him to  
take decisive steps to evacuate  
the northern part of Glasgow  
city before the storm turns  
down its course and hits  
there, (which it did) The quick  
instructions to Berthram Interior  
Governor of the Dominion ordering  
to have them leave before  
it was too late yet was

\$5003 not sufficient to satisfy the advocates of evacuation who insisted the city government should forcibly remove every man, woman and child from a danger likely to culminate in disaster at any given moment.

Among various agencies that sought to assist the government was the Campaign Transatlantic which was willing to place its antilber service at the disposal but was informed by the agents that very few of the people may be able to escape as the storm was coming too fast.

Since it first showed itself the advancing titan was in a state of the most violent fury and as it grew constantly more and more threatening the panic grew worse.

Gleason city more and more was showered with everything from the confusion of ground even clouds of mud. Outside of the storm the sea of clouds,

was in a terrible fury and the fear of the end of the world was in the minds of all. The exodus from that part of the city continued and only those which I have say in writing who defied Heaven and the storm remained defiantly in the danger zone.

That section after all was bypassed, yet this storm did some way give plenty of warning of the devastation it was about to work on preparing to work.

The outburst of the storm was accompanied by the most greatest electrical display ever seen. Thunderstorm came in "exultance".

Before the world had time to realize the extent of the Gleason city disaster humanity received a record shock from the confusion of ground and the Gleason Orphanage.

That great Asylum like the Angel Guardian Orphanage passed through a baptism of world horror only less terrible in the number of dead than that which occurred at the Angel Guardian.

5005 The tornado in  
colliding with the Gleason  
Asylum was to make  
history for the destruction  
of so mighty a building.  
As it approached the  
orphanage an eerie dark-  
ness spread over the coun-  
try.

From La Salle where  
north side was to be so  
terribly devastated later the  
cloud of the tornado  
was visible, before quar-  
ter to five. The terrible  
noise within the lowest  
part of the swirling storm  
redoubled in force and  
its upper section convulsed  
as though it was in the  
throes of a terrible agony.

Electrical phenomena  
played in the clouds  
giving them a weird and  
terrible appearance, and  
the thunder of the skies  
were joined with the  
roar of the tornado.

Until the Asylum was  
hit the splendid and  
frightening phenomena  
continued giving those

5006  
who lived in the mean  
district ample time to make  
their escape. Death was every-  
where and in its most terrible  
forms. Lightning came from the  
sky killing many who had  
escaped out of the path of  
the storm.

For this great tragedy the  
settings were wonderful. The  
tornado literally rocked the  
earth in its agony. Such  
thunder as never been heard  
before rolled through the  
heavens. From the center  
came tremendous overwel-  
ming sounds as it rammed  
into Asylum territory. This  
joined with the thunder all  
emerging in an incessant  
roar as it tore away the  
Asylum property that added  
to the panic in Gleason.

The earth quaked incess-  
antly because of the uproar.  
As the darkness was fully  
begon and description scarce  
when everything was made  
light as day by the  
lightning which forked out  
from the clouds the

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5007, destruction of the orphanage could hardly be seen. Gleason city shook and so terrific were the thunders that it seemed to the terrified that the universe was being rent to pieces. The next morning no trace of the orphanage could be seen on its magnificent grounds and most of all areas of cultivation of even the cotton were found to have been wiped out, some actually buried under volumes of cotton ground matter. In Alabama and the Richmond plantations and cotton villages were gone. I saw other beautiful plantations nearest the Asylum were gone. Everything had disappeared, if there was a survivor he was not found, all vegetation had disappeared. Not a sprig of green was to be seen on the contour of ground. Live stock had been

been killed all houses 4008 had vanished. Rivers were full of floating debris. It was impossible to proceed to even the river harbor on account of the wrecked shipping and the debris. A hundred and sixty persons are reported to have been killed by the lightning while trying to get away.

As yet said before on account of so much floating debris in the harbor, or even on land and all roadway, it was impossible to go into the interior and even try to investigate the extent of the disaster. It was also impossible to say how many people of the cotton or of the orphanage had perished because so many were blown away to nowhere. We left Gleason at eight o'clock on the following morning to tow a relief boat to the cotton, a quarter point off Zena we received a message from home by boat that the passage was absolutely impassable. Nevertheless we

5024 and know from severe it were that are the other not an occasional int. it is the towns the worst stance acting on of fury most

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5009 proceeded on our way. It was dark and very rainy with lightning and the greatest thunder. When opposite Gemp there was a grand view of the devastation. It was impossible to get close to where the town had been or its territory.

The harbor and river was littered with shattered trees, wreckage of ships and other debris. We attempted to proceed toward Gemp but through the wreckage it found it impossible. It meant disaster to try it. We returned and entered the harbor by another direction but there was the same result. Although attended with smaller loss of life than Gleason city the storm hitting Northwestern So.alle was not less violent than going over the contour.

The length of progress to the Orphanage consisted sixteen square miles, from the Orphan

to the city of So.alle 5010. The fact that the loss of life and damage to property in So.alle were smaller than in Gleason was due to the position of the smaller city and the smaller population of the district the tornado almost side sweeping and where inhabitants were giving warning of the approaching disaster and fled for cellars and also basements or sewers in the streets.

All who did not escape were killed or injured and the many injured suffered from fractured skulls caused by falling bricks from ruined buildings. Also the number of injured consisted of a hundred persons whose mangled bodies exhaled fetid odors and whose loathsome turn up faces made even the hospital nurses, doctors and attendants shudder. Though So.alle did not get it as bad as Gleason city it suffered far worse than Omaha did from the tornado there.

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5011 The bed of the river (not the reservoir) gave up the ghost of a wreck that disappeared in the mud river years ago. The spot has long been pointed out as the grave of a sunken vessel but there was no sign visible to indicate that it was still there.

When the overpowerful twister came and by its unnatural force squeezed the river banks together it forced the wreck from the mud and flung it far across the landscape high and dry. \*\*\* three long

Nevertheless, we believe Navy Secretary Chafee acted wisely and properly. He turned down the court martial recommendation. To disciplinary action will be taken. The men of the Pueblo have offered enough. They were held captive for nearly a year. They offered beatings and the constant threat of death. These men have suffered enough and further punishment is not justified. We think Secretary Chafee has made the right decision. The Pueblo case is closed.

road bridges across the one hundred foot wide river were telegraphed

BBM Radio ... 2

by the contracting of the banks and the river wharf which was so called pride now stands a monument to the cyclones ruthless strength a misshapen mass of badly tangled angles.

How in the world could the storm do this? The railways were terribly damaged and progress into La Salle was impossible for embankments had been badly cracked, railbeds ripped away and rails spread or ripped up in many places.

The theories of Science on convulsions of the atmosphere.

Conflict between cold and heat, is generated and an explanation of the air follows and results with disaster a terror of the skies. Tornadoes and steam boilers as

024 and now more were there that are the water are small it is the storm the worst dance acting on of fury not which is not

5013 illustrations, the  
view of the world's  
most eminent scientists  
concerning the  
causes of the horror  
beginning at  
the woods near John-  
ston Town and so on.

The sky like the earth  
is subject to constitutional  
changes and derangement,  
cold air currents and too  
much summer heat, and  
also too much quick  
change in temperature and  
we often manifest them-  
selves in blizzards (snow)  
spring blizzards (snow)  
rainy spells and violent  
windstorms upon the  
countryside.

The hot summer heat  
heat of the earth and the  
temperature changes of the  
atmosphere which are constantly  
taking place between heat  
and cold in the atmosphere  
manifest themselves outwardly  
in the form of all kinds  
of storms winter spring  
summer and fall and  
tornadoes.

In other words a tornado 5014  
is something I'd say you don't  
see in a dictionary or a prayer  
book. to my way of thinking,  
Scientists have advanced  
theories concerning the primary  
causes of tornadoes ~~and~~ and  
many explanations relating  
to the dangerous atmospheric  
disturbances discharged from  
the conflicting elements ~~are~~ by  
hot and cold air.

Like the doctors who disagree  
disagree in the diagnosis  
of a human malady the  
geologists and tornado ex-  
perts are equally unable  
to agree in all details  
concerning this form of the  
ailments of the upper atmos-  
phere.

After all theories relating to  
the cause of tornadoes have  
been considered the one that  
is most tenable and is  
sustained by the largest  
number of scientists men  
is that which traces tornado  
effects back to the old  
accepted cause of atmospheric

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5813 convulsions in the upper atmosphere, only in this way can tornados be accounted for.

The youngest student of familiar science knows that heat pushed violently upward by a descending colder current generates an upward and outward force, and like all other forces that it follows the path of least resistance.

This force is always present in the disturbed antagonized upper atmosphere of the air among violent thunderstorms which upon hundreds and hundreds of yards has been gradually running annularly towards the center of the elemental warfare.

When conditions occur by which it can outwardly manifest itself it follows the natural law and descends as the so called 'terror' of the skies.

One form of the 5816 tornados downward atmospheric explosion and its simplest form is likewise illustrated in a boiler explosion. Observations of the most violent devastating tornados show them to be only like tremendous boiler explosions at a great height above the earth's surface where a great quantity of conflicting atmospheric convulsions has been temporarily imprisoned within the darkest and thickest clouds and suddenly converted into a maelstrom of winds.

In minor tornados the presence of unusual vacuum is not so noticeable or such quantities which is simply because the amount of imprisoned convulsing winds was small and the amount of whirling winds generated was only sufficient to expel the storming winds which formed in the dark lower clouds between the cold and hot conflicting air like in steam pipes and there fore are the kind that don't travel very far.

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5017 The awful upward  
flow of air in the flux  
and expelled by the upward  
and outward force of the  
great suction through the  
opening of the lower part  
of the funnel is made by  
the friction with the earth  
which precedes the lower  
part of the vacuum.

The two lines of the  
tornadoes courses, one bounding  
off Wintern Gleason, and  
then for the Gleason  
Orphanage from first south  
to north the other from  
southwest to northeast,  
which intersected in the  
neighborhood and upon the  
contour of ground, made it  
follow the course where  
the contour stretched  
towards the Orphanage  
and where the contour  
was weakest and where  
great forces of wind  
of a measure beyond  
comprehension swept the  
best part of it all.  
The terrific force  
of the tornado internal

5018  
irresistible suction was sufficient  
to cause earth splitting tearing  
up winds to be sufficient  
enough to cause upward eruption  
of ground debris to rush to  
the central swirls of the  
vortex, which was determined  
largely by the size and  
spread out width of the  
cyclonic storm so created  
and the amount of vacuum  
which found its way up-  
ward and through them.

The strength of these awful  
internal swirls of winds  
can only be guessed at  
but some idea may be really  
formed by their intense  
speed from the vacuum  
produced by the storm.

Smaller tornadoes may  
run fifty or sixty miles  
and time by time change  
their course across the  
open country before be-  
ginning to die out and  
go back up into the  
cloud above. From this

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5019. It will be seen  
that the winds are very  
much stronger in the  
bigger and longer ones  
and have force more  
greater than are required  
merely in the smaller  
ones to reduce even a  
mere landscape to a swift  
off the way part like  
the "Sweetie Pie" one did.

From this fact it will be seen that the gales are much more tougher than other ordinary tornados are required merely to reduce the ground to a cloud of swirling dust in all directions. From this fact too may be seen the instantaneous action by which the winds swirling upwards into tornados heart is converted into a most irresistible suction cond

a tremendous explosive  
air power is generated.  
The calamity which befell  
the seven cities from  
Johnston to Gamelle, Ill.  
and the convent and Orphanages  
and the Supermarket will  
unquestionably lead to  
a fresh discussion of the  
causes of tornado disturbances  
of this kind.

Not all of the strange phenomena involved therein of the protruding tornado tongue and belly bursting cloud, are yet fully understood, and concerning all of them, there are perceptible differences of opinion among experts and high rank scientists.

On at last one point  
however there is general ag-  
reement

At a certain section of the thickest of clouds the internal convulsions of the storm was probably great enough to make conditions of the storm go wild beyond comparisons of other storms. The colder air coming down might have encountered heat that was too intense and therefore the great explosion

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5021 of the funnel force-  
ing itself through the  
cloud belly of the strangling  
cloud tore up first the  
woods and destroy every  
known substance.

Had all of Johnston town  
been enveloped there would  
be no Johnston town today.  
Confinement of an over-  
strong vacuum like this  
one had could have kept  
the twister in some sort  
of a rigid condition by the  
speed of the wheel which  
went frantic and uncontroll-  
able in the center yet an  
avenue of escape of the  
uprush of heated air  
was opened up there fore  
the belly part was like  
a volcanic explosion.

This caused the tornado  
to become very overstrung  
for a storm of its kind.  
There is a growing  
tendency, moreover to  
recognize the importance  
of gravitation of pulling  
down twisters.

Yet the strength of  
this twister was truly  
unconceivable and it

compelled the storm 5022  
to have an lower onrushing  
wind speed of the suction  
that might have had the  
speed as that man predic-  
ed. This aint meant the  
force and speed of the twister.  
It was meant the pull  
of the suction within the  
lower part of the storm sweeps-  
sweeping lengthwise along  
the ground.

All tornados has this long  
slant. If they stood straight  
up from the ground they  
would have no pull.  
At least so it is stated.  
by scientists.

Even it is said Russel  
Gilbert, volcanic Scientist,  
and some other authorities  
also regard this as such  
twisters as the chief agent  
of the slantwise suction  
in tornados, at least  
when there is an overwhel-  
ing out pouring of very  
unusual strong winds.  
The tornado winds are  
called its convulsions  
and agonizing uprars.

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5023 As to the extent of which  
sudden, cold into heat operates  
a terrific conflict between the  
two there is no lack of any  
harmony among tornado ex-  
perts. Holzer, Mule and others  
though volcanists are experts on  
whirling storms also as it is  
said and they hold that  
cold and heat largely if not  
entirely responsible for the  
trouble than too much moisture  
is.

Remember it is claimed by  
many that this barbed an-  
nounced on the rear of the  
first passing thunder storm  
and then got between, and  
they point to the fact that  
many tornados form inde-  
pendently of themselves in  
the paths of at least  
resistants and don't travel  
far.

But this one didn't, this  
one though forming from  
the rear of a great  
thunderstorm was situated  
between two of  
them near the second  
approaching one from the  
west where between

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them a likely conflict between opposing currents of cold and hot would occur. You must know also that the twister came from the rear of an unusually long severe thunderstorm the like of which were never seen before.

They point to the fact that twisters forming between storms are the most dangerous. Quoted on the other hand regard hot and cold not as the vital factor but as an occasional though important reinforcement. He suspects when the air pockets formed between ~~thunder~~ storms the conflicting opposing air currents are sure to a considerable distance in encountering the conflicting whirl, perhaps in a succession of air pockets and that wild fury was then suddenly and most fiercely generated.

The explosive effects which ensued were of two kinds. By the expansion of the moisture which the air pockets contain the latter by flashes of lightning is reduced to overpowering steam.

5025 like big clouds of 2 and 3  
or gun cotton powder and exploding  
thus originate the enormous  
force of the storm, and usually the  
strange shrouds which the wild  
storm ejects around its self and  
wildly.

Shocks of greater or less violence  
are also produced by the  
speed and more of its mighty  
whirl. The less severe ones and  
which don't travel far no doubt  
sound like humming or buzz-  
ing and do not give rise to  
tremors of both earth and  
air like the mightier ones.  
yet in extreme cases

enough force is developed to  
rend the very atmosphere itself.  
This is the case of the Chester-  
bourn horror which is respon-  
sible for its pandemonium being  
heard so far.

It was not the wreckage  
that made the turmoil it was  
the storm itself. Russell attrib-  
utes the blowing out of the  
child clouds belly to the vacuum  
of the tornado forcing itself  
out on its descent for the  
ground. The culminating

episode of the storm 5026  
explosive force beginning at the  
woods although not resulting in a  
disastering as of the contour of ground  
would seem to be due to the  
same immediate cause. To this very  
particular explosive whirl  
too it seems safe to ascribe  
a force which never the terrible  
maelstrom called the Mosque off  
the coast of Norway cannot one third  
match.

It is said tornados at sea have  
caused tidal waves.

The precise manner in which  
the flux and influx inside the  
funnel gets access to the ground  
like an enormous suction tube or  
blowpipe is not entirely clear.

Nevertheless it is possible to get  
some light on the matter.

It is now well known that  
in many parts of the upper  
section of the storm cloud there  
could be too much moisture  
especially if the twister forms  
between two wild thunderstorms.

The resistance of a chain  
of ruined towns from John  
ston town to game ville suggest  
the probably that the storm

5027 followed freakishly on  
a straight bee line course  
of great antiquity though the issue  
of its unnaturally strong winds  
may have been limited in  
a few isolated points.  
Just how the storm took  
a straight course unknown  
of tornados before is one of  
the most difficult questions  
still left for investigation. In  
fact it has lined all the  
way to the Atlantic.

Given a line of weak-  
ness in its path though and  
a susceptibility to fresh speed  
is afforded, if it had zigzagged  
through more towns than  
those would have been ruined.  
It barely missed Hubbard  
woods.

Professor McGee suggests  
that the overloading of the  
thunderstorms of moisture by  
moisture laden winds may  
have been the immediately  
exciting cause of the  
recent outbreak. Other great  
geologists have found a  
similar explanation acceptable.

in the case of the 5028  
storm not going elsewhere,  
the thing has much to com-  
mend it to disfavor, if  
the Chester Brown disaster has  
already drawn from geologists  
and tornado experts many expressions  
of opinion and explanations  
of tornado phenomena which set  
forth in detail the causes and  
effects of tornado devastation  
in particular and its correla-  
tions in general.

Doctor A. R. Crook a professor  
on Northwestern University  
has made not only a  
special study of volcanoes  
but it is said of tornados  
also. He has made an  
ascent of the two highest  
in the world and has  
climbed many others for  
purpose of study.

Though he is an authority  
upon volcanography he also  
is an authority on all violent  
storms. But he said:  
"Though I'm an expert on clim-  
bing volcanoes I can't climb  
a tornado."



5029 There are two great  
territories of or tornadoes in  
the central part of the  
United States Illinois Kansas  
and ~~other~~ other states  
Illinois takes the lead  
said Professor Crook. Also  
one part is northern and  
southern Illinois "extend-  
ing across Indiana and  
down through Ohio the  
other in the northern  
states, including the  
Dakotas.

These cyclone alleys  
intersect at all points  
only west of the Rockies  
they're not much seen.  
One of them is northern  
Illinois which include  
the Chesterbrown belt the  
scene of the most terrible  
disaster the world has  
ever seen. the other is  
Omaha and St Louis  
and Kansas city. But in  
northern Ill was the

terrible "Sweet's Pie" 7/11/30  
is just at these points of  
intersection of the worst tornado  
states that we expect unusual  
tornado activity and it is  
there that we find it.  
There has been more or  
less theorizing as to tornado  
disturbance moving in  
cycles but it cannot be  
proved.

One fact is established  
and that is that a tornado  
is a "boiler explosion" in  
the air caused by cold wind  
coming in contact with  
overheated air over the surface  
of the ground This is proved  
by the great storm clouds  
that accompany the storms  
violent action.

The old theory that the  
very center of this storm  
is without an actual suc-  
tion tube or wind tunnel  
he says is no longer held.



5031 He asserts the latest idea is that the center of the Tornado is more like a monstrous wind tunnel though maybe more fierce than the biggest whirlpool would be. About this there is more or less explosive force than a million sticks of dynamite exploding at once. This "Sweetie Pie" by its most immeasurable force and strength has caused the surface of the contour of land to rise to even sag and form what the witnesses call wrinkling.

When cold air comes in contact with overheated atmosphere an explosion in the air follows that finds its outlet in the big clouds above through the places where there is least resistance

and the result is a 5032 terrific tornado. There is no part of the whole United States which is exempt from tornados except in the region of the western and eastern mountains," said Professor Crook "and there is no regularity in their actual appearance.

The form and hit at random and even the whirlpool off the northwest coast of Norway can match their strength or suction power or whirl so fast, Tornadoic disturbances are always by the vibration their suction force causes preceded by local earth shaking somewhere distant from them.

The "Sweetie Pie" shook the city of Morris in which many people were scared into the streets. It was no earthquake but the results of the storms awful vibration along the ground and through Chester Brown.

5033 as it is impossible to predict ~~or~~ tell when the next will take place, it is also impossible to tell where it will be. It will certainly be somewhere in the line of least resistance.

and the most worst one will form in a thunderstorm or between, all this is of interest as showing that the atmosphere is still in the most radical condition or is getting worse, just as much as it was from the time of the earth's beginning.

We see the same thing in hurricanes, in them most decided changes takes place but they're nothing in fury compared to a tornado. With references to contributions of science which might be expected from investigations at Chesterbrown and other deserted places from Johnston town to Janesville Professor

hook said?

5034

Even new elements might be discovered, and atmospheric theories either confirmed or disproved, also in its speedy whirl a tornado always throws off in all directions a great variety of debris of all sorts and such things up so that later they'll fall from the sky over a wide expanse of territory.

This "Sweetie Pie" surely did and how, as far as Joliet north and Bloomington south, people were surprised by everything to think of falling from the sky, even sides of houses.

The danger of living in a proximity in a cyclone territory is well known but the iron oxides renders the Illinois soil extremely fertile. This is seen in all Illinois. It is seen also in the western middle states where so many farms and plantations are.

Owing to the way so many people were so violently thrown about every which way it is

5035 probable, that many  
of the victims from city  
to city were mangled crushed  
mutilated or bodies broken  
in many ways, and so  
died horribly or were totally  
crippled for life. It is in-  
deed the most horrible  
disaster the world has  
ever seen, and one which  
we may well pray not  
to see duplicated.

Science however has no  
means of knowing that it  
may not occur again."

Professor Robert T. Hill  
of the United States Geo-  
logical Survey who visited  
the Chesterbrown home on  
a tour of inspection and  
observation says:-

Across the northern  
part of the State of Illinois  
and also Southern  
Wisconsin extends a tornado  
belt of the worst kind and  
it is a chain of violent  
storms of other kinds too  
winter or summer which

are really cyclones in 5036  
the making, with dangerous winds  
banked up every ready to break  
forth at some unexpected and  
inopportune moment and strike  
randomly. Tornadoes and even great  
hurricanes are still the most  
unexplicable and profound pro-  
blems which defy the power  
of geologists and all scientists to  
explain, and one of their most  
singular peculiarities is the fact  
that they sometimes break  
forth simultaneously in widely distant  
portions of this nation.

And strangely too most of  
them for form and stretch  
down from the rear of the black  
cloud, seldom from the center  
or front. A sympathetic relation of  
this kind has been known  
between this one at Chesterbrown and  
Omaha and it is very probable  
that these two tornadoes have had  
some sympathetic relations with  
severe tornadoes before then  
as they raged furiously also  
but only undisturbed big places  
especially at Omaha and La Salle  
when they took on only the edges  
of these cities.

5037 Chester Brown and others were devastated their whole width and length. At the time of the atmospheric explosion of the atmosphere it is said other twisters preceded or followed it in Southern Illinois and Kansas and one hit Terre Haute in Indiana.

The outbreak of "Sweetie Pie" was ravaged the cities from Johnstown to Greenville is apparently the culmination of a number of tornado disasters which have been unusually severe in the past th. spring.

Omaha in Easter March 23th was badly torn up in its west section with a known loss of 150 persons killed and \$12,000,000 property loss while dozens of other places were destroyed by the same haridan.

Poor Galiton took the first blow and was nearly destroyed by fire but was saved by a cloud burst of rain which followed the cyclone.

Only a few days before the Chester Brown holocaust the cities of Central Illinois

5038 were swept by tremendous thunderstorm of record breaking fury. And these thunderstorms were more severe than ever seen before and had dangerous wind squalls. Professor H. S. Shaler of Harvard University a world authority not only on volcanic disturbances, but also storms of exceeding violence says:-

Tornado outbreaks are merely the atmospheric explosions of cold and hot air meeting too violently like steam under high pressure steam which is bound on rocks buried underneath the surface of the earth and there subjected to such tremendous heat that when the conditions are right its pent up energy breaks forth and it shatters its stone prison walls into dust.

The same condition can be formed by too much pressure of the cold air onto hot air. The air explodes into dangerously fierce winds, and you've got your tornado.

The common belief that during unusual warm days in early spring, or too much hot weather in summer summer that colder air enters the warm area too sudden for its own good.



5038 during the air pocket  
period during violent changes  
in the weather, and that these  
colder air currents through the  
natural action of too much  
moister and electrical disturb-  
ances become agitated by  
the violent changes and become  
these violent storms.

Here the tornado clouds above  
form becoming bigger and  
thicker under masses of like  
canopies of other layers of  
of storm clouds which are  
constantly being hurled up  
higher by the upward flux  
of the forming storm.

This process is called the  
blanketing process.

When the upper layer has  
reached its unusual thickness  
of a few thousand feet the  
clouds which contain the moist  
moister are subjected to a  
severe downward and upward  
motion, with increases to a  
terrific commotion.

The downward motion  
generates a whirlpool of air  
which is held in a state  
of frightful tension in its  
central flux and reflux.

5039 It is at these moments  
that terrific tornado occur. The  
result in the lower layers of  
the black cloud, mostly from  
the rear the pressure is removed  
and the compressed air explodes  
with tremendous force.  
The revolving clouds con-  
taining the overwhelming amount  
of moisture and overcharged elect-  
ricity are blown into kingdom  
come, houses of brick are blown  
into dust, which sometimes is  
carried so high by the unmeas-  
urable suction as to almost es-  
cape the power of the earth attraction  
and float across the sky and  
come down as a dust storm. After  
the atmospheric explosion have  
occured the funnel comes down.

This is merely a wind but  
something like a wind sucking  
tunnel that could probably tear  
its way through the center of a  
hurricane if it could hit it admi-  
ships.

But the explosion always precedes  
the wind and one will notice  
that after such a "sweetie Pie" has  
past a torrent of all sorts of  
debris may fall from the  
sky over a wide territory for  
hours.

5040 Professor W. J. McGee of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington says:

"It may be that a violent storm like the Chesterbrowns had some strange mysterious elemental disturbance before the twister came or after the first thunderstorm came but

it does not necessarily follow that the two travel together.

Often times there are very unusually severe thunderstorms with no apparent accompaniment of no twisters at all.

But this could not be true of the Chesterbrowns calamity.

Tornadoes are caused by mysterious disturbances in the interior of the rear storm, or of local by themselves in the interior of its own cloud.

The most commonly accepted belief of "Sweetie Pies" unnatural fury that massive severe storm clouds renewed on the rear of the worst thunderstorm

5041 that had ever occurred and these clouds became dangerously and most wildly disturbed by a current of colder air descending into lower warmer layers of air between the two thunderstorms which is a very dangerous thing to do.

If the space between the two storms was not wide enough for the warmer air to spread, then the colder air goes too far down, the war air becomes severely disturbed from one cause or another and therefore is shoved upwards far faster than it should ever go, it cannot widen out, then it turns into a violent flux and then is overcome by the descending reflux, with the result that the disturbance becomes like an whirling electric dynamo or motor and you've got your tornado.

Probably the most violent tornado in history is this one at Chesterbrowns. It formed between two of the most severe and longest lasting

5042 Thunderstorms on all  
record. The explosive roar  
could be heard farther than  
St Louis and the tremors of  
the ground could be felt  
for half that distance and  
the noise was not caused  
by what the storm was doing  
to all the buildings.

It was the racket of the  
storm itself. This is going  
to be investigated. The air was  
filled with particles of all sorts  
of debris for many days afterward  
especially also dust.

Strange air waves following  
the uproar are believed to  
have passed two or three  
and one-half times around  
the center and otherwise around  
the whole United States. It  
vibrated with alarming vehemence  
windows as far as Chicago  
Gary Indiana, and other  
places east south and west  
the same distance as  
Chicago.

Unfortunately however no  
windows were cracked or  
broken. It is said the  
vibrations of the uproar shook  
and swayed the branches

of the trees in the alley 5043  
and Suncoast Park like on a  
windy day for hours, and there  
was not the slightest breeze at  
the time. The face of the  
land in all its path was  
completely changed. What made  
it roar so. This will be really  
investigated if possible.

Dr D Otis Harvey professor in  
the Museum of Natural History  
New York (not cork) offers the follow-  
ing explanation of the Chesterbrook  
tornado disaster, beginning at Johnston town  
where fifteen hundred students  
of the Big Brigget Skinner school  
which was wiped out, had to walk  
miles to recover recover their  
widely scattered books says -

This tornado was similar  
in cause and effect to a  
big volcanic eruption.  
It is now the accepted belief  
of sudden introduction of cold  
air into the heated belt  
acted as the pouring of water  
into a red hot boiler.

It causes a great  
volume of steam which must  
by all means have an outlet.  
You could readily see how  
the cold air current could get  
between the two thunderstorms

5044 located as there were  
not far from the horribly  
devastated woods ten miles  
southwest of Johnston town. The  
seven devastated cities stretch  
stretched from southwest to  
northeast at this section, such  
traveling by the (twister) tornado  
without swerving off its course  
here and there caused a severe  
curvature of its suction wind  
pipe which evidently caused  
its prodigious strength.

For this result it is  
hard to imagine what  
the result was to be.

No tornado ever made a bee  
line before, and all theories  
and investigations have brought  
no results whatever. It is a  
mystery very difficult to even  
try to solve. There are two  
classes of tornadoes, those which  
are say to eight blocks or  
more than a mile which  
have explosive force in  
its winds more powerful  
than a million sticks of  
dynamite exploding all at  
once, the others much  
more narrower and less  
duration but equally as  
destructive. There is no such

thing as a weaker or stronger tornado. What they do is  
comparing the size of the places  
they hit. The bigger the place  
the greater the destruction  
and the more the loss of  
life. It is the explosive eruptive  
force of the tornado's blowpipe  
which brings such widespread  
destruction as this and it is very  
astounding to learn of the tremendous  
power a tornado like this one  
unleashed.

Professor John Milne of London  
the highest authority in the world  
on volcanic explosions and  
also tornado disturbances classifies  
tornadoes into two classes:

Those that build up and  
form very slowly. Those that  
destroy most rapidly. Bad  
volcanoes are very dangerous,  
especially the explosive kind  
but they never did any  
devastation as the tornado.

The under twisters with  
the longest funnels are the  
most dangerous to cities, towns  
human life and like this  
Charlestown know the very  
physical face of a country -  
rids or low hills.

Storms that build up  
windstorms are periodical



5046 upward wellings of clouds comparatively harmless. But this in this building up which may cover a few hours natural storm clouds become (convulsed) convulsed, and the downward rush of cold air must eventually over power the warmer air and must violently push it up in a convulsed condition and throw it aside.

sooner or later they must burst forth then the terrible disasters of the second class takes place. See the belly bursting cloud it is the same cause that makes a boiler burst."

Professor Milers was asked after the Chesterbourn performance:-

"Is it likely that there will be tornado in this country at present that mostly have missed towns villages and cities for a long time but will one day or another blow a town away?"

"It is almost certain there will be one"

Some in Illinois?"

Many in Illinois"

Some again in this part

Illinois?"

"Undoubtedly"

The awful Chesterbourn wind blast has verified the eminent authority's word.

Professor Angelo Heilprin of Philadelphia, the eminent geologist and authority on both volcanology and tornadology declares there is danger that all seven cities will be totally abandoned for good, especially Chesterbourn, Chester Chure and Janerville from the effects of this most violent atmospheric disturbance which recently had been in progress.

More than that he says the Illinois river route is in danger because of the devastation of the Concord grounds and both were in the tornado course.

"In my (opinion?) opinion the tornado disturbances are now the only thing in this country to be so feared" he continued "I believe tornadoes in this country have far worse force than tornado at sea. It is altogether likely that the tornado disturbance that had occurred may result in the collapse of the river banks

5047

5045 The strange formation of this extraordinary winter you must know means that suction hole had reached a great size that which was in the biggest cloud above being also made as it were above the bosom of the main clouds.

When the upper part of this hole reaches a great size that which is above will be without proper support and then subsidence must follow and a funnel furious and savage comes down to the ground.

The tornados of Kansas Missouri and southern Illinois and of northern Ill. and other spots form at random in a region of extreme atmospheric agitation and bad conditions, which has their parallel in Oklahoma Texas Arkansas and other southern States and on the opposite of Tennessee, Oklahoma and Arkansas in that territory seems to get the worst ones. When it hits a town there there is no more town.

The Central American Region 5049 of weakness against tornadoes extends eastward across Kansas and Southern Illinois into Southern Indiana proper, where also there have been some of the worse ones on record.

St Louis Kansas city have been devastated and other places.

The same region of weakness against these violent storms include nearly the whole central part of the United States, and it should be no surprise to have some of them burst out at Alton Springfield and Lincoln Ill with the same vigor and intensity as "Stueebee Pie" though they have been safe so far as none had yet been hit.

The National Geography Society sent three Geographers to make a special study of the disaster at Chesterbourn, as of the convent there and the angel Guardian Orphanage also of the Super market. They were who were still living Professor Robert T. Hill of the Geological Survey, Professor Israel C. Russell of Ann Arbor.

5050 Mich. and C.E. Boeckmann  
the noted American explorer,  
Professor Hovey after a careful  
examination of the desolated area  
related important scientific  
phases of the great tornado.  
Speaking first of the work  
of his companions and himself  
in Chesterbrown he said:-

"Collection of data concern-  
ing the awful tornado that  
struck Chesterbrown has immedi-  
ately begun. The history of  
this immeasurable calamity is  
practically the same as  
the mighty one that devast-  
ated Omaha in March 23 on  
a Sunday afternoon.

It was Easter. A great thunder-  
storm occurred in the evening of  
August 24th and until noon  
the 15th. It formed on the  
rear of this gigantic storm and  
as the storm moved forward  
more than a mile a minute  
the tornado had to go forward  
as fast as its parent storm.

At least one resident near  
Chesterbrown several months  
ago predicted that seven  
cities of middle North Illinois  
would be wiped out by  
some kind of most violent  
storm.

Finally on the afternoon 5051  
of the great tornado its awful  
swirl spread the devastation  
of Chesterbrown in all directions.  
Large portions of this debris  
caught upward by the huge  
shroud having reached the  
upper current of the immense  
whirl was hurled around and  
around and flung wildly every-  
where, then falling was again  
divided and the debris were  
swept by the lower winds of  
the twister back upon the  
eastward section of the City of  
Chesterbrown.

What is left of the wrecked  
houses show this - the windows  
on the side towards the  
storm being (unaffected) unaffected  
while those on the farther  
side were wrecked by the back  
draught of the vacuum. There was  
no wind on the morning  
of the coming afternoon outbreak  
a fact which facilitated the  
devastation of the city. The  
back draught of vacuum threw  
the storm with such appalling  
fury at the convent, Angel  
Guardian Orphanage and so on  
these places were overwhelmed  
by a storm of horrible force and  
fury with which struck with  
fearful rapidity.

5052 I really believe  
the focus of the beginning  
of the annihilation of the seven  
small cities was the belly  
bursting cloud midway between  
the woods and Johnston town.  
The devastation of the woods  
first and Johnston town as said  
before was the belly block  
buster.

The strange immeasurable  
explosion of wind had the  
greatest superficial force ever  
encountered, acting in radial  
directions from the child  
clouds belly as is evidenced  
by the dismounting and carry-  
ing for miles the guns in  
the battery on a hillside  
south west of the woods and  
an upper part of the hill-  
itself, and an enormous  
statue the mother  
and Christ child in the same  
locality and also by the  
ruined condition of the hill  
side, something unbelievable.

It is said the noise  
was like the shooting of  
thousands of cannons at  
once. Less than a minute  
afterwards the most fearful  
tempest of wind was destroying  
these beautiful cultivated

woods and headed hell  
bound for Johnston town. 45-  
according to dozens of persons 505-3  
their testimony of all there was  
an accompanying flame from  
the bursting cloud belly, this  
must be investigated if it is  
possible. Others think the incand-  
escent flash of electricity and  
the force of the sudden most  
inextinguishable wind were sufficient to  
cause the destruction. I am now following  
the nature of this."

Professor Hall Talbot Jones  
saw the calamity when he  
went to visit his father and  
mother and his sister at  
Bunnybury on August 13 1913  
and returned to La Salle  
Friday (week) 16 nearly ex-  
hausted. Professor Jones was  
near the scene on August 15-  
assumption I ~~was~~ Sunday  
nearly exhausted and terrified.  
Professor Jones was near the  
path of the twister when it  
devasted the long and long  
section of Bunnybury, during its  
mad rush through and was  
able to describe the tornado  
devastation from close observation.  
Speaking personally of his  
experience he said:  
"In attempt to examine the tornado,



5054 " " " " " "  
course was futile  
because of intense darkness.  
I succeeded however in getting  
as close as I dared, though it  
was a dangerous risk at  
fourthirty that afternoon. I  
witnessed as much as the  
darkness would permit a most  
terrible storm I even thought  
could have raged and noted  
the accompanying phenomena dark as  
it got.

W hile this storm raged  
so wildly no sane man  
should have waited to find  
some underground shelter,  
Basements didn't help usually  
as the turrer was actually  
pulling the foundations out  
of the ground;

Following the steady deaf-  
ening roar of the storm  
strange gigantic mushroom  
shaped columns of something  
I couldn't guess what ascended  
in the main cloud above  
near the shroud like  
shape and then spread in  
a vast black convulsed  
canopy overhead and moving  
rapidly.

through this sheet wood  
and most awful flashes

of lightning appeared with 5055-  
alarming frequency. Terefic was  
like thunder, this is indisputable  
evidence of too much electrical  
disturbance in the storm, this was  
a most important observation and  
explains in parts the most awful  
catastrophe going on then.

I do not hesitate to acknowledge I was terrified. I heaved a sigh of relief after raging something over a minute.

all the strange outbreaks of  
this storm are new to science  
and have not been explained.  
The storm was still raging on  
its way northeast and I could not  
make any prediction where it  
was going and what it was  
to do. Later I heard Chesterbrow  
was wiped out. So as far as we  
know the tornado that began the  
destruction from its starting place  
to Ganemee and then across the  
rest of the country is not only the  
strangest on record but one of  
the most remarkable and  
terrible.

It was accompanied by cloud  
bursts it upheaved by its  
blowpipe suction a district of  
several hundred leagues in  
length and caused a slight  
subsidence of a tract of land

5056 not less extensive  
altering the whole system  
of small streams and the  
level of the soil. Some  
suction it had, nothing

nothing could be more  
sudden or less than this  
disruption of the record  
breaking catastrophe.

This was like a sudden  
volcanic eruption of sand  
coming down from the sky,  
which destroyed the whole  
length of Chesterbourn in  
more than twenty eight  
minutes.

At the time of this  
convulsion of the atmospheric  
disturbance in Northern  
Illinois a vast tract of  
landscape or country com-  
prising the seven small  
cities and some land  
beyond was violently  
shaken and overturned by  
the violence of the suction  
and vibrating uproar

Of the low field  
covered valley of the  
Illinois River all of it  
between the seven cities

with beautiful scattered 5057  
woods its cultivated fields  
and its broad river the mac-  
nolia was slightly upheaved  
by the immeasurable irresistible  
suction. Also there was some  
break up of the bed of the  
stream.

When after this most astonish-  
ing almost unbelievable disaster,  
the inhabitants of neighbouring  
regions came to visit the scene  
of it, they found the whole  
aspect of the district altered,  
the cities blasted as if from  
explosions from both the  
underground and sky. The  
cities had ceased to exist  
and an immense sheet of  
far scattered debris covered  
the space which they once  
occupied.

Big long bridges believed  
to be strong enough to  
resist all hell ore no a  
has been and rail beds  
of the railroads are gone.

Beyond this stretch of  
of scattered wreckage to the  
northwest of Chesterbourn  
Chesterbourn has almost  
disappeared. The whole length

5058 of country was covered  
with debris and household  
furniture ~~houses~~ of all sorts of  
production, all the cultivated  
fields the hamlets and  
villages had been involved  
in the cataclysm.

The record of this most  
greatest of catastrophes is going  
to be preserved not only  
by sculpture by the living  
and spoken traditions of all  
our country and George Strabo  
Tactus of the University at  
Saint Royal relating how  
crazily the storm was form-  
ed in the sky during the  
terrible shock between the  
two thunderstorms and how  
most of opulent cities  
towns villages and even  
parts of landscape were  
reallowed up into the  
clouds and scattered  
over the skies to come down  
as rain nearly every-  
where.

But if popular tradit-  
ions were ever to be  
lost or forgotten and if  
the writings of our famous

authors were never to be lost 5059  
the very aspect of the country and  
what is left of the cities would  
suffice to show that all had suffered  
from some most terrible atmospheric  
commotion. But before five years are  
passed there will be in the libraries  
libraries of the very world more  
than 2000 works treating of this  
unusual tornado disaster.

The phenomena will be taken out  
quite out of the realm of  
superstition. We have in this country  
delicate instruments of various kinds  
called seismometers which trace the  
direction of earth movements and so on  
and their force gauged while by means  
of a simple magnet with  
metal pieces attached to it an earthquake  
can be felt.

These instruments tell us that  
nearly a day passes without an  
earthquake on some portion of the  
earth. The internal causes  
of these manifestations are ever active  
what ever the cause may be. But  
the question is how in the world  
did the uproar of the storm affect  
and upset them so violently when  
the noise was in the air?  
It caused by the violent vibration  
on both the air and surface of the ground  
by the noise?

That is a mystery hard to solve.  
And I will tell what I and my  
mother and my family saw.  
I was at that time at some wedding  
my garden at about quarter to four  
in the afternoon. My little girl Jane  
suddenly cried out pointing cloud Pappo  
I looked at that awful cloud Pappo  
its noise makes me scared.  
I observed the cloud which  
seemed of unusual shape and and  
also dimensions stood up and  
distinctly marked this very  
uncommon appearance. I could not  
perceive at that distance from  
what direction the cloud moved  
but it was afterwards ascertained

enough  
shak-  
to  
the  
this  
and  
the  
and  
undred  
it  
on  
the  
after

5060 to proceed from the southwest I could not describe its figure than by comparing it to a very wide shroud appearance and extended itself to a great height to the bosom of an enormous black cloud across the sky whose center was in the most frightful agitations.

The shroud itself especially in the center was in the most terrible convulsions.

I yelled to my wife. "Thank God we are not in its path, it's a tornado"

Darkness was rapidly coming, the buildings all around us trembled and windows vibrated from the concussion caused by the uproar and though we stood upon open ground we feared we could not have remained without certain and formidable should it chance its course and we therefore resolve to

immediately to quit the 5061 town, a lot of people followed us in a panic and alarm and as to a mind distracted with terror every suggestion seemed more prudent than its own pressed in great crowds about us in our way out.

As soon as we had reached a convenient distance from the houses we stood still in the midst of a fearful and most dreadful scene. Our farm wagons which we had ordered drawn out from our barn

could not be pulled any further by the horses because of their violent oscillation and oscillated so violently from the return concussion though upon level ground that we could not keep them steady even by supporting them with the heavy load they had. Some vibration from the return concussion.

The very river seemed to roll back upon itself



5062 and to be driven from its strands by the storm's awful convulsions throes it is certain that its shores were torn so much as to be enlarged. On the southwest a black and most terrible looking shroud with an ingenious serpentine vapor darted out like a long train of fire resembling but much much larger than the flashes of lightning.

Soon after the black cloud seemed to descend and enshroud the whole country as in truth it entirely concealed all the farmlands and the city of Bunnybury. Delves small and large from houses began to fall upon us though in no considerable quantity.

Turning my head I perceived behind us a dense cloud which came rolling in our track like a wind swept parent of dust and gravel, I proposed while there was yet some light to diverge from the high road lest my mother

INVOICE NO.		7. ADJUSTMENTS		1. ORDER		2. SHIPPED		3. ORDERED		4. CODE		5. ITEMS		6. AMOUNT		7. IN		8. SHIPPED		9. ORDERED		10. CODE		11. ITEMS		12. AMOUNT		13. IN		14. SHIPPED		15. ORDERED		16. CODE		17. ITEMS		18. AMOUNT		19. IN		20. SHIPPED		21. ORDERED		22. CODE		23. ITEMS		24. AMOUNT		25. IN		26. SHIPPED		27. ORDERED		28. CODE		29. ITEMS		30. AMOUNT		31. IN		32. SHIPPED		33. ORDERED		34. CODE		35. ITEMS		36. AMOUNT		37. IN		38. SHIPPED		39. ORDERED		40. CODE		41. ITEMS		42. AMOUNT		43. IN		44. SHIPPED		45. ORDERED		46. CODE		47. ITEMS		48. AMOUNT		49. IN		50. SHIPPED		51. ORDERED		52. CODE		53. ITEMS		54. AMOUNT		55. IN		56. SHIPPED		57. ORDERED		58. CODE		59. ITEMS		60. AMOUNT		61. IN		62. SHIPPED		63. ORDERED		64. CODE		65. ITEMS		66. AMOUNT		67. IN		68. SHIPPED		69. ORDERED		70. CODE		71. ITEMS		72. AMOUNT		73. IN		74. SHIPPED		75. ORDERED		76. CODE		77. ITEMS		78. AMOUNT		79. IN		80. SHIPPED		81. ORDERED		82. CODE		83. ITEMS		84. AMOUNT		85. IN		86. SHIPPED		87. ORDERED		88. CODE		89. ITEMS		90. AMOUNT		91. IN		92. SHIPPED		93. ORDERED		94. CODE		95. ITEMS		96. AMOUNT		97. IN		98. SHIPPED		99. ORDERED		100. CODE		101. ITEMS		102. AMOUNT		103. IN		104. SHIPPED		105. ORDERED		106. CODE		107. ITEMS		108. AMOUNT		109. IN		110. SHIPPED		111. ORDERED		112. CODE		113. ITEMS		114. AMOUNT		115. IN		116. SHIPPED		117. ORDERED		118. CODE		119. ITEMS		120. AMOUNT		121. IN		122. SHIPPED		123. ORDERED		124. CODE		125. ITEMS		126. AMOUNT		127. IN		128. SHIPPED		129. ORDERED		130. CODE		131. ITEMS		132. AMOUNT		133. IN		134. SHIPPED		135. ORDERED		136. CODE		137. ITEMS		138. AMOUNT		139. IN		140. SHIPPED		141. ORDERED		142. CODE		143. ITEMS		144. AMOUNT		145. IN		146. SHIPPED		147. ORDERED		148. CODE		149. ITEMS		150. AMOUNT		151. IN		152. SHIPPED		153. ORDERED		154. CODE		155. ITEMS		156. AMOUNT		157. IN		158. SHIPPED		159. ORDERED		160. CODE		161. ITEMS		162. AMOUNT		163. IN		164. SHIPPED		165. ORDERED		166. CODE		167. ITEMS		168. AMOUNT		169. IN		170. SHIPPED		171. ORDERED		172. CODE		173. ITEMS		174. AMOUNT		175. IN		176. SHIPPED		177. ORDERED		178. CODE		179. ITEMS		180. AMOUNT		181. IN		182. SHIPPED		183. ORDERED		184. CODE		185. ITEMS		186. AMOUNT		187. IN		188. SHIPPED		189. ORDERED		190. CODE		191. ITEMS		192. AMOUNT		193. IN		194. SHIPPED		195. ORDERED		196. CODE		197. ITEMS		198. AMOUNT		199. IN		200. SHIPPED		201. ORDERED		202. CODE		203. ITEMS		204. AMOUNT		205. IN		206. SHIPPED		207. ORDERED		208. CODE		209. ITEMS		210. AMOUNT		211. IN		212. SHIPPED		213. ORDERED		214. CODE		215. ITEMS		216. AMOUNT		217. IN		218. SHIPPED		219. ORDERED		220. CODE		221. ITEMS		222. AMOUNT		223. IN		224. SHIPPED		225. ORDERED		226. CODE		227. ITEMS		228. AMOUNT		229. IN		230. SHIPPED		231. ORDERED		232. CODE		233. ITEMS		234. AMOUNT		235. IN		236. SHIPPED		237. ORDERED		238. CODE		239. ITEMS		240. AMOUNT		241. IN		242. SHIPPED		243. ORDERED		244. CODE		245. ITEMS		246. AMOUNT		247. IN		248. SHIPPED		249. ORDERED		250. CODE		251. ITEMS		252. AMOUNT		253. IN		254. SHIPPED		255. ORDERED		256. CODE		257. ITEMS		258. AMOUNT		259. IN		260. SHIPPED		261. ORDERED		262. CODE		263. ITEMS		264. AMOUNT		265. IN		266. SHIPPED		267. ORDERED		268. CODE		269. ITEMS		270. AMOUNT		271. IN		272. SHIPPED		273. ORDERED		274. CODE		275. ITEMS		276. AMOUNT		277. IN		278. SHIPPED		279. ORDERED		280. CODE		281. ITEMS		282. AMOUNT		283. IN		284. SHIPPED		285. ORDERED		286. CODE		287. ITEMS		288. AMOUNT		289. IN		290. SHIPPED		291. ORDERED		292. CODE		293. ITEMS		294. AMOUNT		295. IN		296. SHIPPED		297. ORDERED		298. CODE		299. ITEMS		300. AMOUNT		301. IN		302. SHIPPED		303. ORDERED		304. CODE		305. ITEMS		306. AMOUNT		307. IN		308. SHIPPED		309. ORDERED		310. CODE		311. ITEMS		312. AMOUNT		313. IN		314. SHIPPED		315. ORDERED		316. CODE		317. ITEMS		318. AMOUNT		319. IN		320. SHIPPED		321. ORDERED		322. CODE		323. ITEMS		324. AMOUNT		325. IN		326. SHIPPED		327. ORDERED		328. CODE		329. ITEMS		330. AMOUNT		331. IN		332. SHIPPED		333. ORDERED		334. CODE		335. ITEMS		336. AMOUNT		337. IN		338. SHIPPED		339. ORDERED		340. CODE		341. ITEMS		342. AMOUNT		343. IN		344. SHIPPED		345. ORDERED		346. CODE		347. ITEMS		348. AMOUNT		349. IN		350. SHIPPED		351. ORDERED		352. CODE		353. ITEMS		354. AMOUNT		355. IN		356. SHIPPED		357. ORDERED		358. CODE		359. ITEMS		360. AMOUNT		361. IN		362. SHIPPED		363. ORDERED		364. CODE		365. ITEMS		366. AMOUNT		367. IN		368. SHIPPED		369. ORDERED		370. CODE		371. ITEMS		372. AMOUNT		373. IN		374. SHIPPED		375. ORDERED		376. CODE		377. ITEMS		378. AMOUNT		379. IN		380. SHIPPED		381. ORDERED		382. CODE		383. ITEMS		384. AMOUNT		385. IN		386. SHIPPED		387. ORDERED		388. CODE		389. ITEMS		390. AMOUNT		391. IN		392. SHIPPED		393. ORDERED		394. CODE		395. ITEMS		396. AMOUNT		397. IN		398. SHIPPED		399. ORDERED		400. CODE		401. ITEMS		402. AMOUNT		403. IN		404. SHIPPED		405. ORDERED		406. CODE		407. ITEMS		408. AMOUNT		409. IN		410. SHIPPED		411. ORDERED		412. CODE		413. ITEMS		414. AMOUNT		415. IN		416. SHIPPED		417. ORDERED		418. CODE		419. ITEMS		420. AMOUNT		421. IN		422. SHIPPED		423. ORDERED		424. CODE		425. ITEMS		426. AMOUNT		427. IN		428. SHIPPED		429. ORDERED		430. CODE		431. ITEMS		432. AMOUNT		433. IN		434. SHIPPED		435. ORDERED		436. CODE		437. ITEMS		438. AMOUNT		439. IN		440. SHIPPED		441. ORDERED		442. CODE		443. ITEMS		444. AMOUNT		445. IN		446. SHIPPED		447. ORDERED		448. CODE		449. ITEMS		450. AMOUNT		451. IN		452. SHIPPED		453. ORDERED		454. CODE		455. ITEMS		456. AMOUNT		457. IN		458. SHIPPED		459. ORDERED		460. CODE		461. ITEMS		462. AMOUNT		463. IN		464. SHIPPED		465. ORDERED		466. CODE		467. ITEMS		468. AMOUNT		469. IN		470. SHIPPED		471. ORDERED		472. CODE		473. ITEMS		474. AMOUNT		475. IN		476. SHIPPED		477. ORDERED		478. CODE		479. ITEMS		480. AMOUNT		481. IN		482. SHIPPED		483. ORDERED		484. CODE		485. ITEMS		486. AMOUNT		487. IN		488. SHIPPED		489. ORDERED		490. CODE		491. ITEMS		492. AMOUNT		493. IN		494. SHIPPED		495. ORDERED		496. CODE		497. ITEMS		498. AMOUNT		499. IN		500. SHIPPED		501. ORDERED		502. CODE		503. ITEMS		504. AMOUNT		505. IN		506. SHIPPED		507. ORDERED		508. CODE		509. ITEMS		510. AMOUNT		511. IN		512. SHIPPED		513. ORDERED		514. CODE		515. ITEMS		516. AMOUNT		517. IN		518. SHIPPED		519. ORDERED		520. CODE		521. ITEMS		522. AMOUNT		523. IN		524. SHIPPED		525. ORDERED		526. CODE		527. ITEMS		528. AMOUNT		529. IN		530. SHIPPED		531. ORDERED		532. CODE		533. ITEMS		534. AMOUNT		535. IN		536. SHIPPED		537. ORDERED		538. CODE		539. ITEMS		540. AMOUNT		541. IN		542. SHIPPED		543. ORDERED		544. CODE		545. ITEMS		546. AMOUNT		547. IN		548. SHIPPED		549. ORDERED		550. CODE		551. ITEMS		552. AMOUNT		553. IN		554. SHIPPED		555. ORDERED		556. CODE		557. ITEMS		558. AMOUNT		559. IN		560. SHIPPED		561. ORDERED		562. CODE		563. ITEMS		564. AMOUNT		565. IN		566. SHIPPED		567. ORDERED		568. CODE		569. ITEMS		570. AMOUNT		571. IN		572. SHIPPED		573. ORDERED		574. CODE		575. ITEMS		576. AMOUNT		577. IN		578. SHIPPED		579. ORDERED		580. CODE		581. ITEMS		582. AMOUNT		583. IN		584. SHIPPED		585. ORDERED		586. CODE		587. ITEMS		588. AMOUNT		589. IN		590. SHIPPED		591. ORDERED		592. CODE		593. ITEMS		594. AMOUNT		595. IN		596. SHIPPED		597. ORDERED		598. CODE		599. ITEMS		600. AMOUNT		601. IN		602. SHIPPED		603. ORDERED		604. CODE		605. ITEMS		606. AMOUNT		607. IN		608. SHIPPED		609. ORDERED		610. CODE		611. ITEMS		612. AMOUNT		613. IN		614. SHIPPED		615. ORDERED		616. CODE		617. ITEMS		618. AMOUNT		619. IN		620. SHIPPED		621. ORDERED		622. CODE		623. ITEMS		624. AMOUNT		625. IN		626. SHIPPED		627. ORDERED		628. CODE		629. ITEMS		630. AMOUNT		631. IN		632. SHIPPED		633. ORDERED		634. CODE		635. ITEMS		636. AMOUNT		637. IN		638. SHIPPED		639. ORDERED		640. CODE		641. ITEMS		642. AMOUNT		643. IN		644. SHIPPED		645. ORDERED		646. CODE		647. ITEMS		648. AMOUNT		649. IN		650. SHIPPED		651. ORDERED		652. CODE		653. ITEMS		654. AMOUNT		655. IN		656. SHIPPED		657. ORDERED		658. CODE		659. ITEMS		660. AMOUNT		661. IN		662. SHIPPED		663. ORDERED		664. CODE		665. ITEMS		666. AMOUNT		667. IN		668. SHIPPED		669. ORDERED		670. CODE		671. ITEMS		672. AMOUNT		673. IN		674. SHIPPED		675. ORDERED		676. CODE		677. ITEMS		678. AMOUNT		679. IN		680. SHIPPED		681. ORDERED		682. CODE		683. ITEMS		684. AMOUNT		685. IN		686. SHIPPED		687. ORDERED		688. CODE		689. ITEMS		690. AMOUNT		691. IN		692. SHIPPED		693. ORDERED		694. CODE		695. ITEMS		696. AMOUNT		697. IN		698. SHIPPED		699. ORDERED		700. CODE		701. ITEMS		702. AMOUNT		703. IN		704. SHIPPED		705. ORDERED		706. CODE		707. ITEMS		708. AMOUNT		709. IN		710. SHIPPED		711. ORDERED		712. CODE		713. ITEMS		714. AMOUNT		715. IN		716. SHIPPED		717. ORDERED		718. CODE		719. ITEMS		720. AMOUNT		721. IN		722. SHIPPED		723. ORDERED		724. CODE		725. ITEMS		726. AMOUNT		727. IN		728. SHIPPED		729. ORDERED		730. CODE		731. ITEMS		732. AMOUNT		733. IN		734. SHIPPED		735. ORDERED		736. CODE		737. ITEMS		738. AMOUNT		739. IN		740. SHIPPED		741. ORDERED		742. CODE		743. ITEMS		744. AMOUNT		745. IN		746. SHIPPED		747. ORDERED		748. CODE		749. ITEMS		750. AMOUNT		751. IN		752. SHIPPED		753. ORDERED		754. CODE		755. ITEMS		756. AMOUNT		757. IN		758. SHIPPED		759. ORDERED		760. CODE		761. ITEMS		762. AMOUNT		763. IN		764. SHIPPED		765. ORDERED		766. CODE		767. ITEMS		768. AMOUNT		769. IN		770. SHIPPED		771. ORDERED		772. CODE		773. ITEMS		774. AMOUNT	
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5063 wife father and children  
should be crushed to death in the  
dark by what might be in that  
awful cloud, Scarcely had we step-  
ped aside when darkness overspread  
us like midnight, and a heavy  
shower of debris fell upon us  
but did not harm us as the  
substance was light in weight  
and small,

We almost imagined that the  
last eternal night was come which  
should destroy the world and all  
of us together, as I know what?  
had seen it is impossible to  
exaggerate the horror of that  
ill-fated Sunday afternoon, the  
terrible noise of the storm the  
dense obscurity and murky  
shadows of the skies above the  
long heavy roll of the convul-  
sed wide shroud the strident  
noise of the clouds of flying  
debris the awful blinding flashes  
of lightning relieved the black-  
ness only to make it much  
ghastlier than before the fall-  
ing showers of debris which  
descended like rain, the clash

5064  
and many of meeting rocks  
and stones hurled together  
by the violence of the winds houses  
flying to pieces, the flinging  
here and there of the victims of  
the storm and wreckage driving  
through the darkened streets and  
swirling through the public grounds  
all these things - must have  
combined into a whole of such  
of such unusual and such awful  
terror that the imagination  
cannot adequately realize any-  
of it, no stoutest heart was appalled  
and more we must be sure who  
were not on its path, who on  
it even but survived the  
horror will ever forget the  
sights and scenes they had  
witnessed on that day of awful  
storm

more than a minute and  
fourty seconds were thus endured  
with all the anguish of suspense  
and uncertainty And for the  
rest of the day the dark-  
ness did not clear away and  
two hours later another unusually  
severe thunderstorm set in with  
its extraordinary cloudburst

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5064. cloud burst next day  
 the darkness by degrees began  
 to partially clear away but there  
 was no sun. The scene was  
 changed, the section of Bunny  
 bury still left looked like a  
 St Pierre after the eruption a  
 great number of the men folk  
 living in the section rushed  
 were busy rescuing the injured  
 and removing the dead

All southern western and  
 northeastern Bunny bury were  
 no more. It was the greatest  
 tornado calamity in history.

It seems absolutely extraordinary  
 if not ridiculous that this storm  
 first called the "Oliver Twist" got its  
 name changed to "Sweetie Pie"

The tornadoes with which we  
 are familiar are of the most  
 characteristic forces of nature in  
 this country but who ever it  
 was who called this one "Sweetie  
 Pie" I'd like to know.

The tornadoes are most freq-  
 uent in the Spring months,  
 but they've been known to  
 show up in July August and  
 September when the heated  
 surfaces of our country attracts

Copper

Manganese

Scandium

Chlorine

Aluminum

Fluorine

Hydrogen Boron

Iron Zinc

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Argon

Silicon

Neon

Carbon

Helium

Cobalt Gallium

Vanadium

Phosphorus

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Lithium Nitrogen

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I want to speak to  
the Journal of pleasure.

What you say?

This is not a tornad its  
windstorm?

You are very clever this  
morning about it?  
Yes.

Well done me a favor,  
Hang a whole hurricane

on your long nose you're  
blowing much to hand, and

if receive any more  
of your devastation I'll

speak to the typhoon about

you -- Oh you're the

typhoon, I beg your  
pardon = much obliged.

the cooler air and denser 5066.  
as from the Canada southern  
provinces no year passes with-  
out some disaster taking place  
at one point or another of the  
normal storm zone. Houses are  
often uprooted like trees, then  
swept away like dust while  
towns have been torn to splinters  
plantations ruined and even  
river islands broken into shreds  
and cities devastated by these  
most terrible windstorms.

But a dozen of these put to-  
gether into one could not match  
this one. I am also a professor  
on Science. What happened  
beginning at Johnston was this

A gigantic explosion of tornados  
wind tore through with a speed  
unknown. Tornadoism is still one  
of the most inexplicable and  
profound problems which defies  
all scientists and the most  
learned of geologists to explain  
and one of its most singular  
peculiarities is the fact that  
they sometimes break forth im-  
pulsively in widely distant portions  
of the country.



5067 a sympathetic relations of this kind has long been known between the St Louis and Kansas tornados and it is very probable that the Omaha and Jere Haute tornados had some such sympathetic relations with the tornados of other locations. At the time of the Omaha disaster other tornados preceded or followed it in other sections.

Jere Haute for example, the present outburst of this "Sweetie Pie" is apparently the culmination of a number of recent tornado disturbances which have been unusually severe, although some light has been thrown on the character of this most terrible tornado by which these seven great towns were blotted out of existence, because of the intense darkness and kinetic fury of the maelstrom storm the exact nature of the out break is a matter of intense speculation.

Few eyewitnesses of the disaster who were survivors

at the time of the occurrence have been found and the stories they tell are far from being consistent and circumstantial because of the intense darkness.

It would seem however that no rain accompanied the storm in the all flated towns which were destroyed by a most tremendous squall while instant death came to many who were in the path of the horrible blow pipe fury which accompanied this palpable sweep of ruin.

The most remarkable feature of the tornado that was reported, was the sheeted wide shroud whose frightful convulsions is said to have poured over the cities, hugging the earth apparently and almost sweeping away every thing in its course.

It was this probably that came from the belly of the child cloud when it burst.

The manner in which this occurred and the manner in which the swirling winds were deflected by the convulsions of

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5069 of the deadly skroun  
shroud on the direction of the towns  
presents one of the most difficult  
problems connected with the storm  
which scientific experts will  
not know what to say when  
called upon to explain. It has  
been said that the harudan  
blew away a lot of the ground  
contour, but it is probable that  
the explosion of wind as distin-  
guished from a mere overwind  
tornado was even more extended  
than that and that the whole  
upper mass of the ground con-  
tours was torn up like wind  
does snow drifts and hurled  
the fragments with desolating  
force in a direction not cal-  
culated though close to the earth.

What is possible the gravest  
disaster of the class of tornados  
occured in the ground contours  
region.

After devastating western Gleason  
city almost in a twinkling  
of an eye a good portion of  
this landscape was blown  
into the air and wiped out

the map of Illinois. 5070  
a few moments later and during  
the progress of the storm its  
debris had partially buried or  
devasted the surrounding country  
for miles and a dozen or more  
upland hamlets had been over-  
whelmed in the earthen deluge  
the deluge or wiped out by the  
irresistible winds or other  
phenomena attending the tremen-  
dous outburst.

Several hundred people  
had met with sudden and  
terrible death scores of others  
had been injured and the  
long roll of disaster included  
all type of farm animals  
and chickens damming up  
of small streams and lay-  
ing waste of large tracts  
of farm lands and orchards  
and mulberry groves.

With a small party  
visited the scene. Only on  
nearing the territory two  
miles southwest of the  
once Gleason Asylum our party  
was brought face to face  
with the signs of such an  
explosive wind.

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5071 Here beside the rain  
of ground debris which had fallen  
on and still covered the farm  
lands and all vegetation we came  
upon fragments of shattered houses  
evidently in some way the  
work of the shroud.

Progressing the last half  
mile to near Jena or what is  
left of the town signs of the  
great disaster grew in number  
and intensity.

The London Times correspon-  
dent was one of our party I forget  
his name said to me

"This storm threw away so  
much from the contour of ground  
that it was scattered for more  
than twenty three miles all  
around and that the force of  
the squall hurled forth so  
many blocks of stone one of  
which it said to be fifty  
feet in diameter nearly  
miles." He continued.

Swinson  
claimed fetid vapors swept over  
us emanating from the passing  
storm. I saw what was left  
of great oak trees torn up  
by their roots laying here

and there and the 5072  
whole stretch of country side for  
miles wore the appearance of  
having been withered by some  
fierce and baleful blast. A few  
minutes further and we had  
gained the devastated crest of a  
low rise of ground and now  
for the first time looked forth  
upon the sight we had come  
to see.

I hardly know which to  
pronounce the more astonishing  
the prospect that now opened  
before us our eyes on the sudden-  
ess with which it burst upon  
us. It was hard to tell whether it  
had been from some mighty  
volcanic outburst or by an in-  
conceivably strong wind.

To the former no more fitting  
phrase perhaps can be applied  
than that of absolute unred-  
eemed desolation - so intense,  
so sad and so bewildering  
that I despair of describing  
it adequately in detail.

On our right a little  
above us rose the incurved  
wall of what had never been  
there before, a ragged almost

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5073 ~~near~~ sheer cliff falling  
with scarcely a break to a depth  
of twenty feet. In front of the  
cliff everything had been blown  
away and scattered over the  
face of the country side before  
it on a roughly fan shaped  
deposit of for the most part of  
unknown depth, deep enough  
however to erase every land-  
mark and conceal every feature  
of the deluged area.

Some tornado to do this. How  
could it be possible? But seeing  
is believing. To our eyes the  
long stretch of country side  
denuded by the explosive force  
the wind seem to cover a space  
of most wild devastation of be-  
tween five and six miles. This  
however can only be rough  
conjecture.

Equally vague must be  
all present attempts to de-  
termine the volume of disrupted  
debris ~~as~~ rucked forth and  
hurled forth everywhere by  
such a force of wind. It is  
incredible. Yet if we assume

as a very moderate calculation  
that the mean depth of debris  
and also all sorts of house and  
broken tree debris covering a partially  
buried area of thirty square miles.

is not less than three to  
five feet we find that the  
work achieved by this great  
wind ~~triumph~~ of nature's fury  
from the shroud was the  
upheaval, sucking up and  
scattering and wide distri-  
bution of no fewer than five  
hundred ~~thousand~~ thousand tons of  
earth and other debris rocks  
and other ponderous material.  
The real figure is probably  
much greater.

The desolation ~~at~~ beyond  
Jena and the mighty mael-  
strom everywhere like a  
volcanic outburst by the storm which  
covered the earth were absolutely  
incredible. Down what is left  
of the slightest slopes of the  
contour of ground five or six  
miles away from the Gleason  
canyon was swept by the  
irresistible wind a vast billowing  
sheet of debris mixed mysteriously  
with mud obliterating every

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5075 foot of the east where  
landscape. Here and there the  
eyes rested on huge disordered  
heaps of rocky debris in the  
distance resembling nothing so  
much as the giant concrete black  
substructure of some modern  
broken up breakwater. It was  
curious to see on the further side  
the sharp line of demarcation  
between the debris of house and  
farmland mud from torn up  
streams and the green forests  
on which it had been hurled  
and flung, or again the small  
lakes formed in every small  
tributary by the massive dams  
so suddenly raised against  
the passage of their stream  
waters.

One lake was conspicuous  
among the rest. It was there  
that a unarmbed small stream  
itself had been arrested at  
its issue from a low narrow  
pass by a monster barrier  
of debris thrown right across  
its course by this most monster-  
ous of winds.

Neither living thing or any  
sign of life could be discerned

over the whole expanse all  
was dimly silent and 5076  
solitary, it is also believed  
that this awful cyclone when it so  
suddenly raged along the contour  
of grounds and flung an unknown  
cubic yards of the ground material  
so high in the air and all direction  
that many of the falling fragments  
were so violently flung by  
the force of the squall that they  
were forced to strike the  
ground with such velocity as to  
be hurled far out of sight.

The debris, dirt and everything  
there were driven by the whirl  
so far out where from the  
funnel they spread out as an  
upside down umbrella shape half  
way up causing pitchy darkness  
beneath. Lower down it had  
another such canopy. This made a  
terrible pandemonium of sound.  
It is said from the concussion of  
the storm there was a landslide  
which devastated thirty square  
miles near the Starved Rock  
region.

My what a storm. It is said  
about six miles length of the  
countour had been literally blown

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The explosion of such a wind was caused by a too speedy a whirl of the vicious twister. It was in fact nothing more than a gigantic boiler explosion rushing forward. The main power was in the shroud. Most of all the contour ground had been actually been blown into the air in a lateral direction and

disasters  
We spend a brief outline of our  
narrative.

[illegible]



5079 at about four o'clock  
in the afternoon on August  
fifteenth a frightful noise  
was heard with the coming on  
of intense darkness by the in-  
habitants of a village ten miles  
distant from an unwhirling storm  
of which character they could not  
determine because of the gather-  
ing darkness. Though their village  
was not in its path some  
of them instinctively took to  
flight but before they could run  
more than a hundred yards  
the light of day was suddenly  
changed into a darkness more  
intense than that of midnight  
a shower of debris poured down  
upon them the ground was  
shaken by the concussion caused  
by the violence of the pass-  
ing storm.

many fugitives as well as  
people in the houses were  
overwhelmed by the deluge of all  
sorts of debris but none of  
the fugitives were injured  
for they were more than  
two hundred yards from the  
village. From the statement  
by these fugitives and from

a personal examination 5080  
of the ground we inferred  
that the debris must have  
been flung fully six miles  
through the air and then  
swept along the ground in  
great clouds for miles, all  
this was done in less than  
five minutes so that countless  
tons of all sorts of debris  
were hurled over the country  
at the rate of two miles  
a second. This is the speed  
of the throw not the velocity  
of the wind.

The velocity of the far  
flung debris may be over-  
estimated but in the awful  
suddenness this catastrophe  
was evidently one with no  
equals. The contour of ground  
destroyed may have been  
composed of fine farm lands  
and low sloping long stretch-  
ing hills which was almost  
instantaneously converted into  
great clouds of all kinds of  
debris by the irresistible winds  
of the widely convulsed shroud.

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5081 The quantity of debris  
hurled forth by this mighty  
wind must have been en-  
ormous so this terrific storm  
is the most destructive tornadoic  
horror unequalled in violence  
of all times but it is believed  
the worst of all was its devast-  
ation of the contour of grounds be-  
tween Gleason and the Asylum.

Where contour of grounds lies  
between Gleason city and the  
Gleason Orphanage 7m size it is  
significant and is or was a most  
beautiful territory in Illinois. We  
do not know the main size of  
it but a length of six miles  
towards the asylum was wiped off  
the map by the storm.

We usually believe tornadoes  
after traveling fifty miles in  
ordinary cases will ultimately  
die away or go back up into  
the cloud with no marked  
change than perhaps the total  
devastation of a few towns or so.

But such was not the case  
on this terrible August 15th  
1913.

The sequel was at once un-  
expected and terrible as it came

so suddenly and got so  
dark no one actually saw what  
took place. Those nearest to  
the scene of the savage storm  
having enough to do to save  
their own lives while the  
dense clouds baffled all  
observation.

It is said the phase of the most  
greatest violence set on the last  
part of the storm during the last  
fourty five seconds. I am sure saw  
at a comparatively safe distance  
that the land contour had  
vanished in a dense cloud of  
convulsed vapor the height of  
which was estimated at not  
than twenty five up. At inter-  
vals frightful detonations of  
thunder resounded around the  
crazy roar of the storm and  
after a time a rain of all kinds  
of debris began to fall at  
places more than ten miles  
distant, even more.

For miles around the most  
most fiercest flashes of  
lightning ever seen rent the  
clouds and at a distance  
of fully forty miles

green and the rain to descend  
and at ten a.m. it came

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5084 ghastly components gleamed  
on the branches of trees. These strange  
phenomena grew more and more  
alarming until the last of the  
storm passing away when an  
uproar of most fearful intensity  
shook earth and river and re-  
vibrated the air and being far  
far the most violent and pro-  
ductive of the most widespread  
results.

It was in fact the most terrible  
and tremendous windstorm out-  
burst in its intensity known  
in human history.

By the force of its out-  
flung of debris by its whirl  
the tornado spread ruin and  
death over many surrounding  
leagues out of its path.

A mile length of the ground  
contour was blown completely  
away.

Of villages and towns and  
farm houses and other farm  
property some had disappeared  
some were destroyed and part-  
ially covered by fallen  
debris while many changes

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had taken place in all the  
grounds on river vessels.  
near by all sorts of debris fell enough  
to cover the decks like scattered trash.  
The enormous clouds of the tornado  
storm which were so high in the  
sky mingled with all sorts of debris  
and pulled up high into the air and  
then flung far outward darkened  
the sky for a great area around the  
country.

at Joliet and also Chicago, and  
elsewhere, even for about a hundred  
miles away from the tornado it  
produced an effect like a London  
fog. This began at six in the  
evening of August 15th. Soon after  
quarter after six the light had  
become lurid and yellow and  
flashes and electric lights were  
required in the houses than  
came a downfall of rain mingled  
with small debris and by  
half past six everything was  
in complete darkness until  
morning.

When it soon began to  
lighten and the rain to diminish  
and at ten a.m. it ceased.